THE INDEPENDENT

INSIDE TODAY

18/MUSIC Revelation that led Tavener to the abbey



21/JOHN WALSH Wet nuns and unionists

THE EYE Art, hype and fame: Tom Lubbock on the new RA show

TODAY'S NEWS

Unionists join talks

The Northern Ireland peace talks strode an important few paces forward yesterday, when the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble led his colleagues into Stormont. Despite this week's bomb, the Unionists are expected to meet Sinn Fein face to face next week, after being caught in a political pincer movement between the Blair government and their own grassroots supporters. Mr Trimble, however, is far from reconciled to his old enemies. As he walked into the building where the talks will take place, he explained that he was not there to negotiate with Sinn Fein but to expose "their fascist character". David McKittrick, page 13

Landmine ban agreed

More than 400 countries including Britain yesterday agreed a draft treaty to ban anti-personnel landmines immediately. But the United States, having tried to delay the ban for another nine years and failed, refused to sign. There was some discussion about naming the treaty after Diana, Princess of Wales. Full story, page 10

Children betrayed

The London borough of Hackney has broken the law by failing to protect the safety and well-being of children in some of its 69 schools, according to the Office for Standards in Education, it will release a scathing report roday which portrays Hackney as a drifting artheaderless education authority which has virtually collapsed. Page 7

Taxmen in trouble

Taxpayers have suffered badly from rude and incompetent government officials, according to a withering report on the Inland Revenue and other agencies. In one case a businessman was hounded into bankruptcy unnecessarily. In another, a woman returned from holiday to find her after-tax pay had been reduced by two-thirds. Page 9

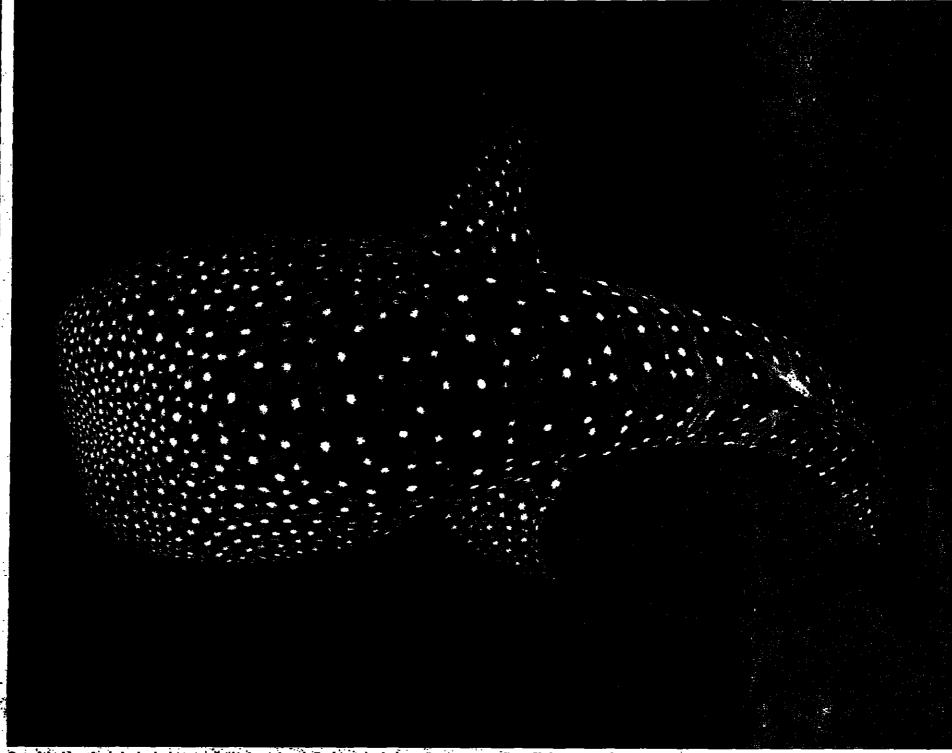
SEEN & HEARD

A pensioner silenced the bells of her village church by smashing down the door and cutting through the bell ropes, a court heard yesterday. Midge Mather, 65, had been locked in a bitter ding-dong with church leaders over the noise of bell-ringing in the 12th-century church tower beside her cottage at Compton Bassett, Wilcshire. So she armed herself with a crowbar and a hacksaw before breaking down the 500-year-old oak church door and sawing through the bell ropes. She then telephoned church officials and was later charged with causing criminal damage worth £1,852,25. The prosecutor, a Mr. Knell, told Chippenham magistrates' court that it was "a sad case for the church authorities ... They are people who are normally used to dealing in. terms of peace and understanding".



WEATHER TELEVISION CROSSWORDS

Big Blue: A fish-eye view of the whale shark



Out of the blue: A whale shark photographer is leased exclusively to the Independent, was by Jurgen Freund, who was highly from taken with a Nikon F4 with I6mm fisheye mended in the BG Wildlife Photographer of least 160 sec at 18. Freund said: "After the Year competition. The picture, re- annual mass spawning of 120 million land often have to search for whale sharks, but at Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, who was highly from taken with a Nikon F4 with I6mm fisheye whale crabs gather to feed on a banquet of larvae. At other places in the world, people from the competition will open at the Natural History Museum on 25 October.

Open war at the BBC as stars revolt

Some of the country's best-known journalists were in open revolt yesterday over a plan by the BBC directorgeneral John Birt, to merge news pregrammes and cut

Pgul McCann and Paul Volley explain why the plan to replace programme editors with five "super editors" might be a reform too

The BBC was in crisis last night as its senior broadcasters stood nose to nose with John Birt to oppose his plans to merge the production of the Corporation's news programmes.

Anna Ford, John Humphries, James Naughtie, Sue MacGregor, Nick Clarke, Robin Lustig and James Cox circulated a letter of protest about the changes yesterday after being involved in an extraordinary stand-up row in a packed meeting with the head of BBC news programmes, Richard Clemmow.

The letter expresses the broadcasters "dismay, verging. on despair" at the plans and ends: "The changes you have put forward will not work. That is the simple truth."

Also vesterday, the estitor of Newsnight, Peter Hoffocks, threatened to resign if the changes were implemented. Horrocks, together with Jon

Barton, editor of the Today programme, and Kevin Marsh, the editor of The World at One and PM, have all put their jobs on the line by refusing to apply for any of the five new executiveeditor posts planned under the new regime.

Production staff on a number of programmes were discussing mass resignations with the intention of transferring as a unit to other networks.

Senior sources believe BBC management has underestimated the strength of feeling. Despite years of restructuring at the corporation this is being seen as a reform too far. Sources said they hoped the heat of the reaction yesterday would encourage management to compromise.

"Editors are very senior people in the BBC," said one ighly-placed broadcaster. "They include some of the most calm; sensible and levelheaded individuals, but today they are distressed and deeply passionate."

"Birt is determined to replace a BBC of programmes with a BBC of networks," said another. "He is bent on destroying the essence of what has made the BBC great.

"He will obliterate what gives programmes character and individual integrity and replace it with a bland homogenised service of 24hour news."

The five executive editors will take responsibility for all the BBC's news. These include one who will control the One O'Clock, Six O'Clock and Nine



Anna Ford: Dismay at changes to BBC news

O'Clock News along with the main news bulletins of Radios 4 and 5. Another will look after Today, The World at One. PM on Radio 4 as well as Radio 1's populist Newsbeat. Also planned is an editor for 24-hour "core news" services; separate TV and radio daily current affairs; and daily current affairs planning and commissioning.

A National Union of Journalists meeting was held last night at Broadcasting House and a further meeting is planned for this morning so journalists can organise opposition to the plan.

Pressure mounted on the director-general to compromise when Baroness Williams, the former minister, accused him last night of rushing the changes through to escape the censure of Parliament while it is in recess.

Yesterday morning, a heated meeting took place in the Broadcasting House newsroom

when Mr Clemmow, met staff to announce the changes.

Up to 80 reporters, producers and senior editors from radio news gave short shrift to his insistence that the costcutting changes were vital if the BBC was to continue to offer distinctive journalism to meet the explosion of broadcast choice from digital TV.

Fuel was added to the row when Mr Clemmow told staff that Mr Birt had requested job cuts of 15 per cent from every news department and Tony Hall, the head of BBC News, offered instead to cut 30 per cent of his staff.

"People were very angry," said one of Radio 4's most senior journalists. "In all my years at the BBC I have never seen anything like it. The journalists made mincement of Clemnow and his deputy, Steve Mitchell. By the end of the meeting their entrails were all over the floor."

Television staff heard details of the plan at an afternoon meeting and sources described it as "heated" and "emotional". Staff are also angry at plans

to transfer up to 75 per cent of each news programme's commissioning budget to a new centralised editor. "This is tractor tyre manu-

facture in the Soviet Union circa 1934," said one source yesterday. "We are not saying we cannot share resources or cannot have change, but this is classic bloody Birtism. It is a deliberate management policy of getting rid of the identity of the

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* INDEX

S/HEALTH

Researchers in America have found that Aids is spreading faster among women than men, and that sexual contact rather than drugs is the cause.

7/EDUCATION

The safety and well-being of up to 11,000 children in the London borough of Hackney is at risk, according to a government report.

9/CONSUMER NEWS

Richard Branson is under fire for invalidating cheap through-tickets on England to Scotland routes, despite promoting the services as an inexpensive alternative to the car.

11/EMPLOYMENT

France yesterday unveiled a new package aimed at getting unemployed young people back into work. John Lichfield and Barry Clement compare the approaches on both sides of the Channel

12.13/POLITICS

The Conservative leader. William Hague, failed to rouse spirits in Wales on the eve of the devolution vote; the Unionist leader, David Trimble, entered the peace talks at Stormont

16/DESPATCHES

Solidarity, the Polish organisation which helped topple Communism, looks set for a comeback in this weekend's elections. Intre Karaes watches the oendulum swing.

19/ARCHITECTURE

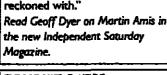
A new range of products has been officially endorsed for the millenni-

20,21/LEADERS & COMMENT

John Walsh's diary: Polly Toynbee on tax and marriage and John Tusa on the tribulations at the BBC.

ON SATURDAY

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PEOPLE



Versace leaves £37m to his 11-year-old 'princess' in an Italian family drama

Allegra. The inheritance represents a 45 per cent share of the business Versace began in 1978.

Allegra Beck (pictured above, left, with Versace younger sister Donatella, 40, and Paul Beck, a former model who manages the advertising side of the company. Donatella will take over creative control of Versace SpA, while her brother Santo, 53, will maintain the position of chief executive.

Allegra's shares will be managed by her parents famous art collection which includes works by Picasso and Leger. It is also thought to be worth £37m. The peculiar thing about this Italian family dra-

ma, is that Santo's two children have received noth-

Gianni Versace, the fashion designer shot dead in ing in the will. Versace loved his nieces and Miami in July, has left £37m to his 11-year-old niece, nephews more than anyone else in his life. He called Allegra "my princess", and said of them as a group "I want to see my nieces and nephews grow up - I want to see their children". He also told the New and her brother Daniel) is the daughter of Versace's Yorker, "I get crazy at the idea that a time will come when I won't see Daniel and Allegra anymore."

News of the will, which was signed by Versace on 16 September 1996, leaked late Tuesday night. It replaced a previous will drawn up in May 1990. In it, both Donatella, who has 20 per cent, and Santo, who has 35 per cent, retained their shares in the and Santo Versace. Daniel, 8, will inherit Versace's business. It is thought that Santo's children have not benefited due to the larger share their father holds in the business. Versace's long-term lover, Antonio D'Amico was also named in the will.

The Marines pride themselves wife Twylla, a Canadian teacher.

The United States Marine Corps is being forced to confront the on being the toughest and truest ghosts of Vietnam, in the person of 48-year-old Randy Caudill.

Arrested last week on a routine ter he deserted the Marines and fled to Canada, Caudill awaits his punishment at Camp Pendleton. California, where he served as a 19-year-old radio operator. If con- US reached its height. victed of desertion, he faces five years in a military jail.

Ireland now faces an intriguing allwoman contest for its Presidency

after Fianna Fail (FF), its largest

party, sprang a surprise by choos-

ing academic Mary McAleese (right) ahead of former Taoiseach

Albert Reynolds as their candidate.

swelled by fears that, if he won, a

subsequent Dail by-election defeat

could spark a general election with

the Fianna Fail-led government

possibly losing power. Some 35 FF

Dail and Senate members were

newly elected this year.

BUT THIS TIME I SAW SOMETHING THAT TOTALLY

BLEN ME MAN

Anti-Reynolds ranks were

of the American armed forces, al- to Canada from one of several visways faithful - "Semper Fidelis" to their own. But former Private puter check turned up a military border check, nearly 30 years af- Caudill is a grandfather and fam- arrest warrant. The Marines say ily man, a retired mechanic with they take the case "seriously", but serious arthritis. He deserted in may come under pressure to fi-1968, in the year of the Tet of-nesse charges. A spokesman fensive, as anti-war fervour in the stressed Caudill was being treat-

Vietnam deserter raises uncomfortable ghosts

"All I want is for them to send treated as another Marine." Randy home real fast," said his

member, came from behind, win-

to 48. Former European Com-

- Tim Comwail, Los Angeles Women to vie for Irish presidency missioner Michael O'Kennedy came third. Fifteen O'Kennedy votes defected after planted ma-

ed with dignity: "He is being

Caudili was arrested returning

its to his daughter, when a com-

mours that he had pulled out. He denied this, but summoned only 21 of the 37 votes earlier pledged. Ms McAleese, 47, an unsuccessful FF candidate in the 1987 Irish general election, offered a vision that addressed an Ireland where "people are not easily

continue Mary Robinson's "caring,

ning the second round by 62 votes outreach" role.

UPDATE

WORKPLACE

Employers come up trumps

Ministerial fears that employers would overwhelmingly oppose extending the imposition of worker's rights from "day one" of employment may have been wide of the mark.

Research published yesterday showed that four out of ten finance directors were in favour of such protection. Even among the 49 per cent of finance directors who opposed the extension of employees' rights, some could see a need for reducing the two-year qualification period.

The findings of the poll, conducted by Reed Accountancy Personnel, the specialist employment agency, will surprise Blainte politicians who were keen to abandon the pledge for fear of opposition from the busicommunity. The policy was endorsed by John Smith, former leaded of the Labour Party, but was quietly diched by his successor.

Among the 40 per cent of respondents backing day-one rights, one remarked. "It's unfair on day-one as much as it is two years down the line," he said Some board members were more wary. Said one: "Legislation should also protect the employer from abuse.

Tood, farm.

CONSUMERS

Bottled water labelled a 'con'

Bottlied water is "one of the greatest cons of the 20th century", due to it feing "vastly overpriced" with little to "differentiate it from tap water" according to water companies.

Announcing the results of a review of the multi-million pound botded water industry, Pamela Taylor, chief executive of the Water Companies Association (WCA), said yesterday that bottled water was "marketing's answer to the emperor's new clothes". David Alexander, chairman of the WCA's technical committee, said that while a litre of tap water cost on average 0.07p, a litre of bottled water costs 50p. "That's the same sort of price differential which exists between a Ford Escort car and a light aircraft," he said.

But the British Soft Drinks Association immediately hit back, describing its business as "highly successful". Robert Hayward, director general, said: "The growth is the result of consumer choice." Last year the UK market consumed 800 million litres of bottled water.

ENVIRONMENT

Signs of the times clutter the way



Iraffic signs and other roadside paraphernalia are major contributors to a rising tide of clutter in rural areas, traffic planners will be told today.

Neil Sinden, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, will tell a national conference of highways engineers that they have a major role in keeping the countryside beautiful. The charity launched its campaign

against unnecessary signposts, pylons and advertisements last year. It claims credit for persuading the Government to drop proposals to relax controls over advertisements in rural areas. Mr Sinden will make his plea for cooperation at the Conference on Traffic Signs being organised by the Institute of Highways Incorporated Engineers at Loughborough.

HEALTH SERVICE

Trust mergers may backfire

One in six NHS trusts are involved in merger talks with neighbouring trust: but the savings achieved are likely to be overwhelmed by damage to staff morale and opposition from politicians and public, according to a survey. Even if a third of all trusts merge, twice the number currently con-

sidering the move, the savings would be £240m at most, according to the survey conducted jointly by the Health Service Journal and Nexus Structured Communications. Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, has said he expects to see more mergers to reduce duplication of facilities, and provide a more efficient service. But the survey found opposition from nearly every group, both inside and outside trusts. Geoffrey Bowden, anthor of the report, said: "The savings are extremely modest for the pain and agony that they will put the NHS through."

by Chris Priestley

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

7.30 FOR 8

Mrs McAleese, not currently a pigeon-holed". She promised to









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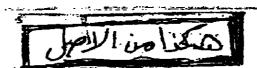
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Flood, famine and higher food prices follow El Nino

El Nino, a vast disturbance in the normal workings of the climate system which happens every few years, is well underway again and this one is going to be extra large. It will cause drought and floods, and raise prices for commodities like tea and coffee. Nicholas Schoon analyses the global

It all started last March, several months earlier than normal. with a rapid rise in sea surface temperatures in the mid and eastern Pacific. It changes the weather, abruptly and catastrophically, bringing drought to some regions and torrential downpours to others thousands of miles away.

'COn'

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Charles Marie

Charles Co.

r the way

Climatologists are already confident this will rank as at this century, if not the worst, which happened from 1982 to 1983, is estimated to have killed 2,000 people and caused more than £5bn worth of damage.

> "This one is well underway and it's proving to be a very large event," said Mike Davey, the El Nino expert at the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Taking no chances, the South African Cabinet decided yesterday to start preparing. A special committee for disaster management was set up, and an urgent meeting of African ministers convened. Ministers 👡 🖥 said a severe drought was expected from November to March 1998.

In a world where the key natural resources of freshwater, fertile soil and forests are squeezed by a rising human population, drastic departures from normal weather patterns become more damaging. Yet some scientists believe that

El Mino starts off with a rise in sea.

surface temperatures and a dwinding away of trade winds in the central and tiem Pacific. Temperatures rise at a time of year when they would normally be falling. The colours show the situation at the beginning of this month. The darkest shade is where the sea temperature is 3 degrees C or more above the average for the time of ear. The fighest shade is where temperature is 0.5 degrees or more above average. The darker the shade, the more the departure from normal.

EFFECTS NOW

prolonged on the other side of the ocean. DROUGHT NOW- Indonesia.

Central America, Southern

FUTURE EFFECTS

The drastic change in Pacific sea temperatures is followed by drought and flood across much of the world. Already the central and eastern Pacific are receiving heavy rainfall, while drought has arrived or been

Over the next few months, El felt around the world.

DROUGHT FORECAST-Indonesia, Philippines, eastern Australia, South Africa, Central America, Carlobean.

HEAVY RAINFALL FORECAST-Central Chile, north-eastern Argentina and southern Brazil, States and California.

CONSEQUENCES Serious brushwood, peat and forest fires in

Famine in Papua New Guinea.

Possible decline in coffee, tea and cocoa harvests, with prices rising.

 Maize harvest in South Africa and wheat harvest in Australia, a major exporter, may be damaged.

THE GOOD NEWS - hurricanes in the north Attantic are reduced in strength and number in El Nino years.

mas it is pressed up against hundreds of miles of Ecuador and Peru; people there named it

where no climatologist can

spond to the change in sea temperatures. On the other side of the Pacific, drought has already hit large areas of South East Asia and Australia - and El Nino is being blamed. Dr Davey said its impact on weather was heaviest around the Pacific rim, but it could be seen in Africa and as far north as Alaska. One of the few places

confidently claim El Nino is at

work, at least as yet, is Europe. In Australia, a governmentbacked forecasting organisation is predicting that the country's next wheat harvest could be slashed by one sixth because of the resulting drought. And in South Africa, Agriculture Minister Derek Hanekom said last week that the expected onset of El Nino-related drought could halve the country's com crop, costing more than 1 billion rand (£130m) in lost exports.

David Lubin, economic adviser for emerging markets at banking group HSBC in London, said: "No one is able to identify the global effects but the basic picture is that prices will go up, incomes will go down and trade balances will be hit." There are worries about how El Nino will affect cocoa, coffee and tea harvests. At the world's biggest futures exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, some traders have already noticed abnormally large

price hedging.
El Nino will be threatening southern hemisphere maize and wheat harvests just after world grain reserves have begun to recover from a couple of lean years which have sent international prices soaring.

In Indonesia, fires used to clear brushwood from plantation sites have gone out of control due to the dry conditions, and El Nino is blamed again. A pall of smoke and haze has covered Singapore and swathes of Malaysia as well as much of Indonesia, threatening the health of millions of people and closing airports. In Papua New Guinea, villagers are leaving their homes in the highlands and traditionally prized pigs are being sold to buy food as a drought continues.

In the country closest to the phenomenon, Peru, the Central Bank forecast a slowdown in economic growth to 5 per cent next year from 6 per cent in 1997 because of likely flooding along the northern coast, droughts in the southern highlands and reduced fish catches.

page 26

has moved out from the lecture halls and laboratories of climate science and academia into the

In the last few years, El Nino

years, increasing its threat.

mankind changing the make-up

The phenomenon lasts from global warming, caused by two to five years and begins

mally, in the absence of El of the atmosphere, may itself be Nino, the trade winds blowing exacerbating the natural climate oscillation of El Nino which has across the Pacific from east to been going on for thousands of west "bunch up" warm, surface waters on the western side of the Pacific. The sea level there is several feet higher than on the east, and the sea temperatures are also higher. Along the South American coast, cold waters well up from deep ocean

roughly every five years. Northis temperature difference across 9,000 triles of ocean. El Nino erases this differ-

ence. When it starts, usually around June, the trade winds slacken and the sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific-begin to rise. What begins this process is not known (and its onset cannot yet be accurately predicted) but it is a positive feedback trenches, helping to maintain the rising sea temperatures

tend to weaken the trade winds. which in turn raises the temperatures further.

Scientists using satellites and sensor buoys spot the phenomenon as a fast growing area of surface water where the temperature is several degrees warmer than it should be for the time of year. This temperature "anomaly" grows in area and depth, soon covering sea the size of a continent. By Christ-

"the boy child" after Jesus. The ocean upwelling slows down, the surface water is as much as eight degrees warmer than normal, and the fishing is severely disrupted.

Onshore there is extremely heavy rainfall. The effects swiftly spread to other continents as the atmosphere and winds re-

Weather, The Eye,

Risk of the great deluge abates

Weather experts and environmental agencies had been bracing themselves for severe flooding from tides affected by the movements of the Moon and the Sun. But as Jojo Moyes found, low winds mean that homeowners on the

An extraordinary combination of astronomical events which threatened to cause major flooding along Britain's coastlines this week look set to pass

coast can breathe easy.

without wreaking destruction. From today until Saturday, the effects of the Sun, Moon

and the Earth's rotation will join to produce the highest "astronomic tides" seen in Britain for 40 years. Combined with high winds, these were predicted to cause "surges" leading to unusually high tides and extensive flooding.

The unusual conditions will neak this morning and any high winds during could produce tides as much as 3 metres above normal levels. The Environment Agency has issued a warning and asked people to be aware of the flood warning service. The Thames Barrier was raised earlier this week for checks in preparation for high

tides tonight and tomorrow. But forecasters are now predicting that the weather over the next few days will be kind. meaning that tides should not reach flood level. "Over the

next four days we've got a nice, big, fat high-pressure system over the British Isles which will produce light winds, so there won't be anything that the seadefences cannot cope with," said PA WeatherCentre fore-

caster Philip Eden.

.The tide levels and weather forecasts are entered into a computer system made by the Proudman Oceonographic Laboratory (POL), which then predicts conditions 36 hours ahead. A spokeswoman said that latest predictions "were certainly not showing anything desnerate vet"

Peter Borrows, flood defence manager at the Environment Agency, said: "These very high astronomical tides in themselves don't present a threat. It is only if on top of these tides we get a surge be-

cause of adverse weather conditions that we start to worry." A spokeswoman for the agency said earlier that only the lowest-level "yellow" precau-

tionary flood warning had gone out in the South-west of England for today, with other parts of the country confident they would escape flooding. This week is unusual because several different astro-

nomical cycles which rule the tides all peak. Dave Smith, head of the Storm Tide Warning Service at the Met Office, said: "The astronomic tides are going to be near to their highest value in certain locations around the UK.

"Every year at around this time, during the equinoxes when the Moon is closest to the Earth, you have this big varia-

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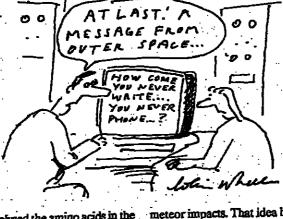
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Forget the primordial soup: according to the latest theory, we are all descended from ET

Life on Earth may have been seeded by comets and meteorites, according to new research. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, says that means we're all extraterrestrials - and that life has existed longer than the solar system's five billion years.

> Chemistry students studying the structure of compounds soon learn that many structures can have a "left-handed" and a "right-handed" formation. The molecules are composed of the same elements, linked in the same order, but their physical structures are mirror images like gloves. Amino acids, the small molecules which make up proteins, can also show this handedness"

> Now, scientists at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Virginia have



analysed the amino acids in the "Murchison meteorite", and found that the amino acids inside it are mainly left-handed. And it is probably no coincidence that amino acids in living things on Earth are the "left-handed" form.

increasingly, scientists reckon that the early life on Earth did not start in a "primeval soup" powered by lightning bolts, but instead was seeded by chemicals from comet dust and

meteor impacts. That idea has been boosted by discoveries of complex molecules in the tails and icy cores of comets.

The news vindicates the scientists Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramsinghe, who have maintained that life could and did originate in cometary material, which then brought it to Earth. Their views were frequently dismissed. But recently more scientists have come

around to agree with them.

"primeval soup". Chance would suggest that it would have had equal amounts of left- and right-handed aming acids, and hence proteins. But it does not. Living proteins are built on left-handed ammo acids. The Murchison meteorite. which struck Earth in 1969, also

that life on Earth formed in a

has a surphis of left-handed amino acids. Critics have repeatedly suggested that that was because the meteorite was contaminated by terrestrial sources. But the latest studies. reported today in the science journal Nature, have shown that this is not the case: amino acids deep inside the meteorite had the wrong proportions of different isotopes of nitrogen to have been formed on Earth.

That means extra-terrestrial life - and its precursors - is left-handed, just like life on Earth. But many cosmic objects are far older than the Solar System, which formed about 5 EXAMPLE: A CIVIPLE LIVELE AND FEMOLE'S INCOMPLY HOME. BOTH NON-SAMPLES ACED. 39. APPLYING FOR A FIXED BATE MORTHAGE OF SALOD LINKED TO A PEP POLICY SECURED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF BAJLOD. MONTHLY MORTHAGE FOR DESIGNATION THE DEEDS \$15, AMAINGEMENT FEELES AND LINKED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF BAJLOD. MONTHLY MORTHAGE FOR DESIGNATION THE ACED ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE EXPL ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE FORD ON THE EXPL ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE FORD ON THE EXPL ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE FORD ON THE EXPL ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE FORD ON THE EXPL ASSUMING FOR A PER MOLESTATION THE EXPL

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Aids in US is spreading faster among women than men

Researchers have discovered that Aids is spreading more quickly among women in the United States than among men and that sexual contact - not infected needles is the leading cause. The new findings offer a

gioomy counterpoint to recent happier news on the treatment of Aids. In New York, David Usbome takes a look.

In most of the developed world, at least, the enemy has been in retreat all year. Study after study have shown new success in the prescription of drug cocktails to tame the impact on patients of HIV, the virus that leads to Aids.

Last week, officials in Washington offered this: the Aids mortality rate in America fell 26 per cent between 1995 and 1996. Moreover, the disease lost its crown as the leading cause of death among 25 to 44-yearold Americans. Now it is numher two, just behind accidents

and a little ahead of cancer. But this latest report, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and completed by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, stops the music: there is still no vaccination and more Americans, especially the poor and disad-

Moreover, the report, which spans 1991 to the end of 1995, shows that the number of those infected is now climbing fastest

tention on the declining death rate; this is the rest of the stoty." said Daniel Zingale, who is director of the US advocacy group Aids Action.

Even so, Aids, once dubbed the gay man's plague, is still more prevalent among men than women. In 1995, for instance, the cases of women infected with HIV remained only about 19 per cent of the total for the year.

Attracting particular concern, however, are the behavioural findings behind the statistics. The CDC suggests that while sharing of dirty needles was for a long time con-

vantaged, are getting the virus.

among American women. "There has been a lot of at-

The number of women diagnosed with Aids between 1991 and 1995 grew in the United States by 63 per cent compared with an increase of 12.8 per cent for men. By the end of 1995, there were 67,400 women diagnosed with the disease since the epidemic began. Of those, 11,500 were identified

Aids cases among women could he traced back to sex with in-

sidered the principle source of HIV infection among women patients, since 1993 sex with infected men has become the By 1995, 52 per cent of

fected men, up from 40 per cent in 1991. By comparison, about 53 per cent of the men who contracted HIV in 1993 did so through homosexual contact. That was sharply down from 63 per cent in 1991. The sexual contact dimension is especial-

ly important, the study says, among women under the age of 25. They are 212 times more likely to catch HIV from sexual contact than by exposure to dirty needles for drug injection.

"It's critical to reach young people before they reach the

drugs," urged Dr Pascale Wortley, the chief researcher on the study. "The key is, get them before they even start".

Among the more striking findings in the study was that many adolescent women were

age of having sex and injecting contracting the virus through sexual contact with men significantly older than themselves. Moreover, the greater the age-gap, the less likely it was that the woman, often in her teens, would insist on him usthe actor Paul Michael Glaser, who contracted Aids through a blood transfusion, and died aged 47. She was a tireless campaigner for women with Aids Photograph: Alain Berliner/FSP

Mr Zingale of Aids Action insists that this means that while education of young women is important, so too is education of the men that may sleep with them. "Condoms cost 40 cents. Aids drugs cost \$40 a day and may or may not . work," he pointed out.

Researchers also confirmed fears that Aids is spreading fastest in the American Deep South. They suggested that this was caused by an epidemic of cocaine use in the region as well as the predominance, especially among poorer groups, of

syphillis. While the figures in the study do not go beyond the end of 1995, officials have indicated that new statistics due out later this week will confirm the

Doctors urge patients with flu to treat themselves

Patients with colds and flu are clogging up GPs' surgeries and preventing those with more serious conditions getting treatment. A campaign launched yesterday seeks to persuade people to stay away from the surgery this winter. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports.

Up to half of patients consulting GPs during the peak win-ter colds and flu season seek treatment for conditions that doctors can do nothing about.

The 4 million adults who made the trip to the surgery last winter with "flu" symptoms; aches, pains, coughs and Aneezes - could have saved themselves the trouble by stocking up on over-thecounter remedies, doctors say.

Antibiotics, which tackle hacteria, are useless against colds and flu, which are caused by viruses. That leaves doctors thic to offer only the same advice as pharmacists - drink plenty of liquids and take an

The Doctor Patient Partnership, a collaboration between the British Medical Association and the Patients' Association, backed by £3m of Government funding launched its flu campaign yesterday, urg-

ing people to stock up on

paracetamol and cough medicine before the winter. - Dr Simon Fradd, chair of the partnership, said: "Unfortunately, we don't have a magic treatment for colds and flu. Antibiotics don't work. All we can give is medicine to treat the symptoms which peo-

He denied doctors were seeking an easier life by turning patients away "This is not about withdrawing services, it is about helping the public to treat themselves better."

ple can buy for themselves."

Dr Fradd said the "sad thing" was that many people came into the surgery having had flu for four or five days and had taken nothing for it. Early treatment helped reduce dis-

One trick, when symptoms were bad, was to take aspirin and paracetamol in combination. Dr Fradd said: "They are totally different drugs and they

over-the-counter flu remedy. work in different ways. Aspirin reduces inflammation and takes away the aches. Paracetamol is a painkiller that enables tolerance of the symptoms."

Neither drug may be taken more often than once in six hours but combined they can be alternated every three hours. Most people would take a

few days to start to feel better and should treat themselves for at least a week before ringing the surgery. Dr Fradd added: "Of course, if you or your child have very severe symptoms, become unduly short of breath, cough up blood or large amounts of green or yellow phiegm, you should call your GP for advice."

Cathy Gritzner, general

manager of the Patients' Association, said the campaign was necessary to ease the pressure on GPs and allow the seriously ill to be treated more quickly and given more time. "We know a lot of patients have difficulty getting to see their GPs, with long waits for appointments. If people with colds and flu can treat themselves those who are not at all well can get to see the GP more quickly and obtain the help they

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Getting sacked or divorced is more stressful than going to jail

A new ranking of the most stressful life events shows that people find it more disturbing to be divorced or fired from work than to go to prison. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports on a league table of psychiatric risks.

The prospect of suffering a major personal injury or illness is much more worrying to people than it was 20 years ago. It comes sixth in a list of the most stressful life events, up from 16 in a similar list drawn up 20 years ago.

The ranking, by US psychiatrists, is based on a study of 427 volunteers who were asked to assess 87 life events. The results showed changes compared with rankings made in 1977, with greater concern about health, relationship and work difficulties but less concern about money, retirement

The study, published in the Journal of Psychosomatic Research and reported by HospiLIFE'S TRIALS - THEN AND NOW

1. Death of spouse 2. Divorce 3. Death of close family

- 4. Marital separation 5. Fired from work 6. Major illness or injury
- 7. jail term 8. Death of close friend 9. Pregnancy io. Major business
- readjustment II. Loan repayment demand
- 2. Gain new family member B. Marital reconciliation 14. Change in health of family 15. Change in financial state

tal Doctor, showed that women

scored 86 of the 87 events as

more stressful than men. How-

ever, the researchers, from the

Veterans Affairs Medical Cen-

tre, in Reno, Nevada, claim this

does not show that women.

that men underreact.

overreact to life stresses, but

An earlier scale was pro-

duced in the 1960s and the au-

8. Marital separation 9. Change in health of family 10. Marriage II. Retirement 12. Sexual difficulties 13. Change in financial state 14. Gain new family member

i. Death of spouse

3. Fired from work

member

4. Divorce

5. Pregnancy

6. jail term

2. Death of close family

7. Loan repayment demand

thors of the new study say overall life stress appears to have increased by 45 per cent

15. Death of close friend .

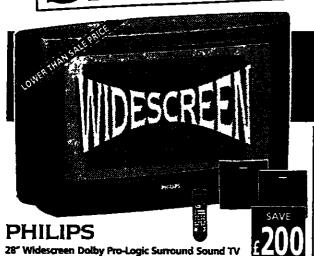
over the 40 year period. Unmarried people gave higher scores across the range of events than those who were married indicating that the single find life a greater trial than those who can look to a partner for support.

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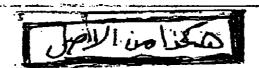
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Hackney puts safety of pupils at risk

Safety and well-being of children at schools in a rundown part of London is at risk, according to a ferociously critical report to be released

In an unprecedented verdict, inspectors found that Hackney, which oversees the education of more than 10,000 children, is breaking the law by failing them badly. Anthony Bevins and judith judd report.

Hackney politicians are preparing to accept the offer of an intervention team appointed by the Government to sort out the borough's education service.

A report from inspectors at the Office for Standards in Education to be published today is expected to argue that the administration in Hackney has collapsed. Some children are not even being given places in school and the authority is failing to offer support to its 69 schools.

It will paint a picture of a drifting and leaderless education authority which lacks not only a director of education but al secretary of the Hackney also an entire second tier of officers. Ministers' decision to send in a team of experts reflects their determination to be ney. We are one of the fastest as tough on failing education authorities as on failing schools.

Richard Painter, who headed the hit squad for Hackney Downs School which led to its been extremely supportive but closure, will lead the team, there has been a lack of leadwhich has been given until January to report. Two other mem- solution of the Inner London . hers are Ann Sofer, Tower Education Authority. We be-Hamlets' former director of lieve in local democracy but we education and Pat Collarbone, have not been well served by a former Hackney head. Extra politicians."

money will be on offer as an inducement to councillors to agree to intervention.

At present, the Government cannot force the authority to accept help, though it has said that it intends to acquire new powers to take over failing local education authorities in the education bill to be published

Every headteacher in Hackney will this morning receive a fax explaining that the intervention is intended to deal with the problems at the town hall and is not a reflection on schools' or teachers' efforts. All parents will also be sent letters of explanation.

Brian Sedgemore Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, said: "This has got a lot worse over the last 18 months after control of the borough was taken over by a coalition of Tories, Liberals and expelled Labour councillors. There has been no director of education for the last 18 months and control has been left in the hands of third-tier officers. The chief executive has lost the plot."

Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour councillors said last night that they would welcome the offer of the

Government-appointed team. Mark Lushington, divisionbranch of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Many good things are happening in Hackimproving local education authorities in terms of GCSE resuits in the last seven year.

"Some council officers have ership and grip since the dis-



Donna Campbell, who attends Cardinal Pole School, in Homerton, east London, a school under the care of the much-criticised Hackney ual love." borough education service, which is set to be taken over by a Government-appointed team Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

History of in-fighting and bad managers

Heads and teachers in Hackney believe that the collapse of the education authority is the result of both political in-fighting and

The ruling Labour group on the northeast London council was disbanded by the national party last year after 17 out of 36 of them voted with Conservatives and Liberal Democrats against the party's official candidate for mayor. The decision came after Labour's national executive had spent months investigating the group over allegations of dirty tricks, vote-rigging and the formation of an unofficial caucus.

At the end of July last year, Gus John, Britain's first black director of education, took early retirement after three months on sick leave. He accused councillors of behaving like "a bunch of gangsters putting out a contract on someone then gathering at their funeral to speak eloquent culogies". He said that they had failed to defend him from attacks by left-wing teachers and gay

In August the party tried to end a war between factions in the council. Five memhers were suspended and the leader and local party chairman were in effect barred . from holding office for 22 months.

The five were suspended after claims that an unauthorised decision-making body had been forming policy in private.

The split among Labour councillors persists with those expelled from the party often voting alongside Liberal Democrats and Conservatives.

There has been no director of education for 18 months and, during that time, there have been two attempts to restructure the council in different ways.

The instability has led to the departure of nearly all the council's senior education officers. The last remaining senior official leaves for a job in Camden this week.

Hackney schools have hit the headlines in unwelcome ways. Hackney Downs was the first school to be taken over by a hit squad set up by the previous government after inspectors declared that it was failing its pupils.

A storm also broke over Kingsmead primary school where the head, Jane Brown, refused tickets for pupils to attend a performance of a ballet of Romeo and Juliet because it was "entirely about heterosex-

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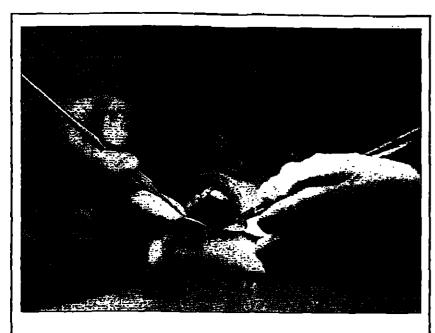
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Fraud crackdown will root out dentists' tricks and dodges

Some dentists have falsely claimed they open their surgeries at weekends to deal with emergency cases in order to obtain bonus payments from the NHS. It is one of the tricks which are to be rooted out in a crackdown on fraud in dentistry to be announced today, reports Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent.

The Government will today announce that it is tightening checks on NHS payments to stop fraud by dentists who have been overcharging for their work.

Alan Milburn, the health minister, ordered the crackdown after a series of cases which showed that a number of dentists were using a range of fiddles. Some dentists had been caught claiming for work that they had never carried out, others invented and claimed for imaginary patients, while others overcharged genuine patients and pocketed the money.

Ministerial sources said last night that the vast majority of dentists were honest, hardworking professionals, but a series of court cases raised alarm about the possible abuses of the system.

In one case, a dentist from East Sussex was sentenced to six months' imprisonment after admitting pocketing £4,000 in false claims from a practice in Eastbourne. She treated patients during norVenables accuses Alan Sugar of forcing him out of Spurs

Soccer chief Terry Venables told a court yesterday he was forced out of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club by his "untruthful" and "greedy" partner Alan Sugar. He claimed that when the once "horrendously" debt-ridden club began raking in millions under their management, the Amstrad chief decided he wanted it all to himself. Then, when fans turned against him, he tried to "justify" himself by "throwing all sorts of lies against me", said Mr Venables. He was then questioned by the Serious Fraud Office and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Venables was giving evidence at Knightsbridge Crown Court, central London for business associate Eddie Ashby, who denies being involved in company management while an undischarged bankrupt. "I lost the club because he (Mr Sugar) was greedy and then the England job was affected because people on the international committee got nervous." Mr Venables branded Mr Sugar as "untruthful" and said their relationship went from

Mammoth revival

Japanese scientist Kazufumi Goto believes that mammoth carcasses buried for thousands of years beneath the Siberian permafrost could still have intact sperm - and that this could be recovered and the DNA used to inseminate African elephants. the mammoths' closest living relative.

Woolly mammoths lived alongside humans and were widespread until the end of the Ice Age 10,000 years ago cut down their sources of food. Six have been found frozen beneath the permafrost in Siberia. According to New Scientist magazine, Dr Goto reckons that if any male specimens are found, sperm DNA could be extracted, frozen and returned to the Kagoshima University in Japan. Dr Goto has already demonstrated that DNA from dead bull sperm can be injected into cows' eggs to produce viable cattle embryos. He believes the same system could also work for mammoths, using elephant eggs. But Adrian Lister of University College London is sceptical. He points out that it needs a male carcass whose sperm DNA has survived non-medical freezing and thawing. "Everything we know about preservation of DNA in frozen tissues suggests it's smashed up into fragments," he told Charles Arthur, Science Editor

Laboratory staff cruel to dogs

Two staff at one of Britain's largest animal testing companies were yesterday given community service orders after admitting being cruel to dogs. Robert Waters and Andrew Mash, who both work at Huntingdon Life Sciences in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, were also ordered to pay £250 costs by magistrates in Peterborough.

Waters, 30, of Peterborough and Mash, 40, of Godmanchester, near Huntingdon, admitted charges of "cruelly terrifying dogs". The allegations were bought by police under the Protection of Animals Act after Channel 4 secretly filmed work inside a HLS laboratory for a documentary, It's a Dog's Life. The film showed a beagle being kicked and hurled against a wall. Staff were also shown punching and shaking dogs.

Hendrix guitar fails to sell

An electric guitar which once belonged to rock legend Jimi Hendrix failed to sell at an auction yesterday. The Fender Stratocaster had been expected to fetch about £180,000 at Sotheby's Rock 'n' Roll Memorabilia auction in London.

Bidding stopped at £100,000 - below the owner's reserve price - and the guitar was not sold.

Germany the key to lifting BSE embargo



Beef farmers at Saintfield market, Co Down yesterday

Britain has secured the first breakthrough in its bid to dismantle the EU beef ban after EU scientists meeting in Brussels yesterday recommended a partial easing of the embargo for Northern Ireland. Katherine Butler reports from Brussels.

Independent scientists on the influential Scientific Veterinary Committee advised relaxing the ban for meat from grass-fed animals which have never come into contact with BSE and whose movements from

farm to farm can be reliably traced. The European Commission is now expected to propose an easing of the ban for beef from Northern Ireland, the only region which has the computerised records of cattle movements which scientists insist are essential before cows can be certified BSE-free. But approval or rejection for even this step lies with EU governments, represented by the separate Standing Veterinary Committee, where chief veterinary officers from each memberstate sits. Germany, which has been most vociferous in opposing any easing of the trade ban, can be expected to try to influence a ruling against Britain when it

Yesterday's opinion backed Northern Irish farmers' claims that they alone have laid down by the scientists which cover

tracking cattle movements in place. But the scientists offered little new hope on prospects for an early easing of the ban for farmers in England, Scotland or Wales. "The major stumbling-block appears to be the lack of a comprehensive computerised movement and tracing system and associated data base in Great Britain," they concluded.

Northern Ireland, which has the lowest incidence of BSE in the UK, has had computerised cattle records for nine years. By contrast, a nationwide tracing database to be sited in the North-west will only become operational in March.

The Government must now decide whether a regional carve-up is even politically acceptable, given pressure from Scottish farmers, fearful of losing export markets to Ulster, to insist on an "all-ornothing" approach. The Conservatives repeatedly refused to consider a region-byregion strategy to ending the ban and last night government officials would only say that the committee's opinion would be "carefully considered".

Animals eligible for certification as BSE-free would be limited to those still in the bords where they were born or for which records of every movement since birth are available, according to the recommendation. And exports would be allowed only for meat, not live cattle.

Last night the Ulster Farmers Union called for clarification of all the conditions an adequate computerised system for such things as health standards for farms.

All Beef. No Bull.

mal surgery hours and then claimed the

maximum emergency call-out fee for the

work by claiming it was done at the

south London, was struck off by a pro-

fessional conduct committee after mak-

ing false claims for work he had never

done. He failed to submit five X-rays he

claimed money for to the Dental Practice

Board on time, and overcharged two pa-

acceptable. These people are criminals and

are stealing money that should be going

into treating patients," said Mr Milburn.

known, but Mr Milburn said the checks

in his department had shown the areas

where there was scope for abuse, and

where procedures could be tightened up.

stop some patients from falsely claiming

they are exempt from charges to obtain

dental treatment free of charge on the

NHS. More vigorous checks are to be car-

ried out on patient's claims for charge ex-

emption to weed out those claiming

The action to be taken will include re-

viewing the wording of the dental fee scale

to make it more difficult for dentists to

make fraudulent claims; supporting the

Dental Practice Board in its drive for more

probity; strengthening links between the

DPB and health authorities to stamp out

fraud; and consultations with the dentists'

professional bodies to continue the attack

Mr Milburn also is ordering action to

The extent of the fraud nationally is not

"This present situation is totally un-

tients who were seen by a hygienist.

In another case, a dentist in Eltham,

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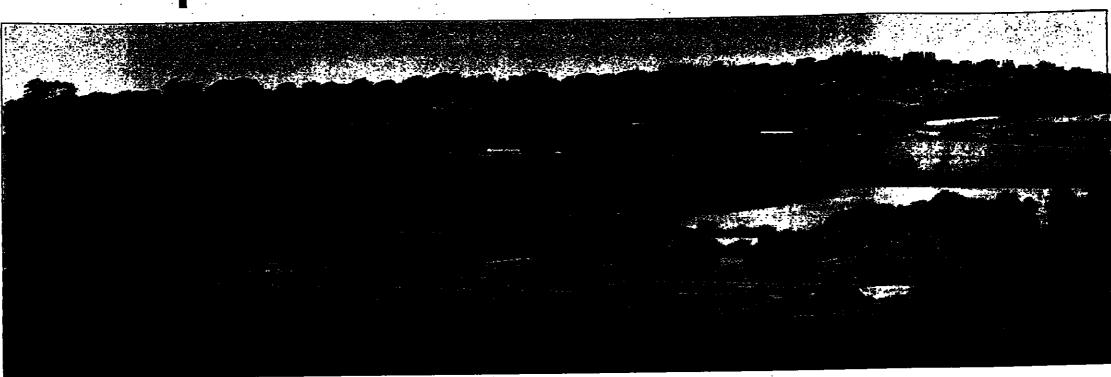
Branson's cheap rail deals become rather expensive

Entrepreneurial flair was supposed to rescue Britain's unloved railways. But when Richard Branson, the Virgin chief, tinkered with his tickets he found himself in trouble with the rail regulator.

Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why Virgin Trains' big

idea may be derailed. Through train services such the high-speed **England-Scotland routes** (pictured) will be

Photograph: Brian Harris



Virgin CrossCountry fares, promoted as the inexpensive alternative to the car, were once cheaper than the shorter trips ber of examples to prove his through busy London stations which required passengers to change trains. However, many of its Super Saver tickets are now, according to the company, "redundant" following a price hike of 15 per cent.

The rise - nearly six times inflation - by Virgin Cross-Country on rides from England to Scotland using the cheap tickets, which can be used on any day except Fridays and summer Saturdays, angered rail pressure groups. Jonathan Bray, campaigns director of tickets were still being sold -but Save Our Railways, said: "We warned that these unprotected fares would disappear as ruthless operators decide that they are simply unprofitable."

The company's latest move reduce them in the future." brought a terse response from the rail regulator's office, following reports that clerks at stations had inadvertently sold passengers the recently-invalidated tickets - unaware that there were now cheaper alternatives. A spokeswoman for the rail regulator said: "We will be the running of £100m Crosswriting to Virgin seeking an ex- Country services last year, has been sold, we need the evidence before we proceed."

Richard Branson's rail company has been quick to market itself as an inexpensive, highquality service. It claims that its £25 return apex fare - which needs to be booked seven days in advance - from London to Scotland is the cheapest ever on

Barry Doe, the transport consultant who discovered the

athy.

tickets' disappearance, said that the price rise would affect "himdreds of fares". He cited a numpoint. These included: a trip from Winchester to Edinburgh - whose Virgin fare is now £92.20 and therefore obsolete, given the alternative is only priced at £79; the same applies to the Virgin ticket from Southampton to Glasgow. which now costs £95.80 as opposed to the once more expensive trip through London which is priced at £82 and can be used on the same through-route.

When contacted, a spokesman for Virgin said that the hastily retracted the statement. "For now the tickets can not be purchased. But they remain in the manuals because, who knows, we may want to

The increases are being brought in on all "Anglo-Scottish" fares controlled by Cross-Country. This will affect cheap returns to Scotland from Wales, the South West and most of the Midlands and the North-west.

Mr Branson, who took over cent in order to make the line profitable. His business plan is based around airline-style marketing. This means that a number of low-cost tickets have been heavily promoted by the company - but all require passengers to book their journey at least a day early and to specify outbound and return trains.

However, senior civil servants said that Virgin's move was more "cock-up than conspiracy".

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Officious taxmen get a reprimand

Taxpayers were made bankrupt or had their pay cut by two thirds in examples of bad work by government officials.

Andrew Verity studies the withering findings of a report on incompetence among the people who collect our taxes and national insurance contributions.

Tax officials across the Government's operations came under ferocious attack yesterday from the body in charge of investigating complaints. Elizabeth Filkin, the official adjudicator of complaints, said that curt, abrasive officials were making their own mistakes much worse while progress in handling complaints was moving at a "snail's pace".

In one of the worst cases. Robert Herriot, a partner in a business called Herriot Turner, of Wiveliscombe, Somerset, was made bankrupt when solicitors acting for Customs and Excise pursued him to court over a VAT debt. But he had already agreed with Customs to repay the debt in installments.

When Mr Herriot applied successfully to have the bankruptcy annulled, he was forced to pay the official receiver's costs of £2,400. Only when he took his complaint to the adjudicator did Customs agree to pay those costs.



Getting a rocket: Tax

Ms Filkin, the only independent body capable of investigating tax complaints outside the courts, yesterday delivered a litany of damning conclusions. She said the organisations were unwilling to acknowledge mistakes, and too often complaints were investigated poorly. She also accused them of being "overbearing" and of lacking the commit-

ment to improve the service. Singling out the Contributions Agency, which collects national insurance payments and comes under the aegis of the Department of Social Security, she said officials were breaching customer confidentiality and causing excessive delays. A staggering 80 per cent of complants had been upheld. Danning criticism was also meted out to the Inland Revenue.

10/WORLD NEWS

lewish millionaire insists lerusalem settlers stay put

To the triumphant sound of a ram's horn, an American Jewish millionaire vesterday visited the Jewish settlement he is bankrolling in Arab east Jerusalem in defiance of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In Gaza, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sounded a warning of a "very negative reaction" unless Israel swiftly resolved the crisis over the takeover by Jewish settlers of two buildings in the Ras al-Amoud neighbourhood.

But settlers showed no signs of budging from their new enclave just outside the walled Old City of Jerusalem and rejected a compromise offer from Mr Netanyahu to quit the site temporarily and leave behind a token presence.

Miami-based magnate Irving Moscowitz responded to the proposal by petitioning Israel's High Court of Justice to tie Mr Netanyahu's hands by issuing a temporary order banning him from evicting the families. A court spokeswoman said a judge would hold a hearing on the matter today;

German disarray over Emu

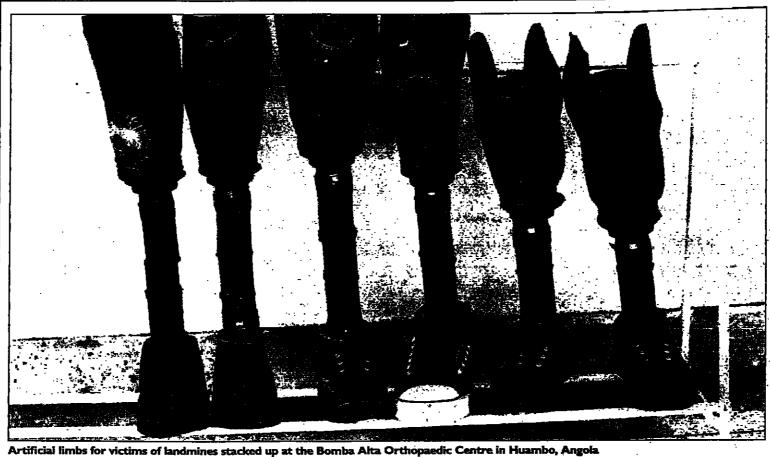
The German government struggled to present a united front on Europe's single currency yesterday as ministers offered differing views on how strictly the membership rules for the project should be applied. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel appeared to say in an interview that economic and monetary union (EMU) would go ahead on time in France and Germany even if their deficits stood at 3.1 or 3.2 per cent. The Maastricht treaty stipulates that EMU members must achieve a deficit of not more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Finance Minister Theo Waigel later said Mr Kinkel had not uttered the words "3.1"

Minister witnesses drug war

Britain's Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd got a close-up view of Colombia's drugs and guerrilla violence when a crop-spraying plane was riddled with bullets while he was observing an antinarcotics operation. Mr Lloyd was waiting near an opium poppy field in the southern jungle on Tuesday to watch the light aireraft spray defoliation chemicals as part of a drugs eradication programme. "The plane was about a mile out when the pilot [said] he was being shot at by guerrillas," a British diplomat said. The pilot was hit in the foot.

Mile-high gamble

Gamblers reluctant to break a winning streak to catch a flight might want to try their luck with Austria's Lauda Air. The airline founded by retired Formula 1 racing driver Niki Lauda says it is the first carrier in the world to offer passengers a casino above the clouds. Lauda, in cooperation with Casinos Austria, will carry roulette, black-jack, poker and slot machines on his new Boeing 777, the airline said yesterday.



Landmine treaty leaves US out in the cold

The US has refused to sign a proposed treaty banning landmines. Rupert Comwell reports on yesterday's deal. taking immediate

effect, reached by over 100 countries in Osio.

Washington yesterday rejected a landmine treaty that has emerged from negotiations in Oslo after the collapse of a last ditch attempt to accommodate its objections - its demand for a nine year grace period before the treaty is enforced and an exemption for Korea where the US military claims landmines are an essential part of the defence of the South and its 37,000 troops based there.

The mood in Olso, intensified by the emotion generated by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who had made a personal cause of the anti-landmine campaign, was one of "no exceptions".

Despite the American resistance agreement by other participants was reached in less than three weeks, astonishingly. fast by the standards of international treaty-making. Delegate after delegate in-

sisted that concessions to one would open the gates to concessions to all, rendering an effective ban impossible. The deal, signed by Britain and taking immediate effect, prohibits the use of landmines and gives

stroy their stockpiles. However, the Pentagon in particular would not be moved and yesterday a grim-faced Eric Newsom, chief US delegate, announced in Oslo that the "strongest efforts" to find a compromise had failed. Those efforts included personal calls from President

signatories four years to de-

Mandela of South Africa, and part in the negotiations, not did Prime Minister Jean Chretien Russia or India. In London, British offiof Canada, the country which has led the fight for a ban.

Last night Mr Clinton insisted that the US remained committed to a worldwide elimination of landmines. "But as it is now drafted, I cannot in good conscience lend America's name to that treaty," he told reporters at the White House. Putting American soldiers in greater danger was a line "I simply cannot cross".

Nor is the US the only hold-out. China, the world's largest producer and exporter Clinton to President Nelson of landmines, did not take

cials welcomed the deal. But, one official pointed out, "a treaty signed by America would obviously be much stronger". Britain would work for a formula to win US agreement before the formal signing in Ottawa in December.

But even then, the hard part is only beginning. An estimated 200-300 million anti-personnel mines have been laid around the world, killing or maining 26,000 people each year. Their clearance will cost billions of dollars.

Forces lose five planes in four days

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Pontac:

One plane crash is unfortunate. Five in four days, the toll that has afflicted the US armed forces, is downright eerie. President Bill Clinton said yesterday that investigators were studying whether a pattern had emerged that required serious review or whether the crashes marked "an unfortunate string of coincidences".

The US defense department announced a decision to halt all military training flights for 24 hours pending a review of safety procedures. The litary of calamities began on Saturday when a cargo jet with nine crew aboard disappeared off the coast of southern Africa. Two crashes on Sunday, two on Monday and one on Tuesday have left three crew dead and five aircraft destroyed.

The most baffling crash was the first one, off the Skeleton Coast of Namibia, for the presumption is that it resulted from a mid-air collision with a German Air Force Tupolev 154, which went missing at the same time and in the same area with 24 people aboard. "It appears to be a really unique and tragic incident," said Lt-Col Bill

Darley, a Pentagon spokesman. Wreckage from the two planes has been found in an area of 10 by 20 square miles where search and rescue craft are concentrating their efforts. The body of one woman has been recovered. Neither plane. Lt-Col Darley said, had the onboard radar capability to detect neighbouring aircraft, leaving them both dependent on air traffic management on the ground. First reports from German military sources indicate that an air traffic control station in Niger failed to pass on the flight plan of the Tupolev to the



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bank robbers armed with M-16 and AK-47 style rifles poured a fusillade of bullets at LAPD officers armed with handguns

and shotguns. Officers had to requisition ritles from a store. "Never again do I want to see LAPD officers outgunned," said Governor Pete Wilson.





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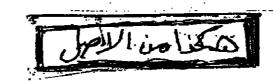
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es lose planes in days

France makes grand plans for young jobless

The French national assembly yesterday approved plans to create 350,000 state-funded, service jobs for young people. The project, far grander than Labour's plans for British youngsters; aims to ' generate the "trades of tomorrow", not to create make-work jobs. But critics dismiss it as a nightmarish mixture of bureaucracy and idealism, John Lichfield

It will forever be called the "Loi Aubry", the Aubry law. For minister, minister of employment and the daughter of Jacques Delors, it could be the crowning achievement, or the first serious failure, of a

reports from Paris.

whirlwind political career. The stakes may be almost as high for the Socialist Prime Minister, Liouel Jospin. Of all the economic ideas and promises on which he campaigned successfully in May, the youth employment plan is virtually alone in not having been diluted, delayed or abandoned.

From the point of view of the 600,000 young unemployed in France, the Loi Aubry is an instant public relations success. Applications for the first 40,000 para-teaching posts in state schools were invited last week. School boards have been inundated with inquiries. In Nantes, in western France, 7.000 young people applied

for the 1,000 or so places. Ms Aubry insists her plan is unlike any other youth em ployment scheme attempted anywhere in the world. It will, she says, generate a permanent, self-funding demand for new kinds of service jobs - assistant teachers, youth organisers, home computer trainers, re-cyclers of domestic waste, entertainers of old people and family conflict counsellors.

The British government

has adopted a mixture of

Continental "carrot" and

American "stick" in its

young people from the

dole queue. Barrie Clement,

Labour Editor, looks at

the British approach to

New Labour is convinced that

improving the quality of pro-

grammes for out-of-work.

youngsters may be insufficient

to ensure the participation of the real "hard cases". For those

who refuse to avail themselves

of the Government's flagship,

"New Deal" for youngsters

The New Deal for young

people will provide an early test

of the "third way" philosophy

espoused by the Blair govern-

ment. Ministers hope to chart

a new course between the paternalism of Continental gov-

eraments and the brash,

authoritatian approach of the

As David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education

and Employment, declared this

summer on launching the

scheme; "Staying in bed on full

benefits will not be an option."

will find it difficult to overcome

the prejudice of some 18- to 24-

year-olds who have seen dis-

credited "schemes" come and

go, For many, acronyms such as

Yops and YTS characterise

long periods of unemployment

followed by short bouts of low-

est programme established by

the previous government for those over the age of 18, nev-

er quite achieved the goals set

for it by ministers. The latest fig-

ures show that around 41 per

cent of participants were in a

expressed its determination to

Training for Work, the lat-

paid, casual work.

The Government however

there are swift and severe

benefit penalties.

Americans.

unemployment.

attempt to extract

WOL

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service "trades of tomorrow", replacing the skilled manufacturing and white-collar jobs. dissolved by computerisation. When the initial five-year contracts run out, she expects many of the jobs to continue with local, private and charitable funding. This, Ms Anbry insists, could be self-financing the money spent on youth organisers, for instance, would be saved in the reduced cost of vandalism and graffiti. .

Her critics - on the right, in the unions, in the press - suggest this is a lot of hot air. The Aubry plan will have all the drawbacks of previous jobcreation programmes, they say. It will destroy as many jobs as it creates: it will train youngsters to do jobs which will vanish as Martine Aubry, deputy prime _soon as the 80-per-cent government subsidy is withdrawn.

Pierre Lellouche, a Gaullist deputy from Paris, was the most scathing voice in the National Assembly debate. "At the moment when the entire world, even the Chinese Communist Party, is going the free-market route. France is heading in a superantiquated direction," he said.

Michel Schiffres in the conservative Le Figaro said the Aubry vision was a morture of "idealism and bureaucracy, of Rousseau and Kafka". It was offering unemployed young people a "hobby, not a profession".

And yet there are several similarities with the £3.5bn welfare-to-work programme announced in July by the Labour government in Britain, whose devotion to markets has been much praised by the rightwing in France.

- Unlike the scheme announced by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the French plan contains no element of coercion. French youngsters who fail to apply will not get their benefit reduced. Unlike the UK scheme, French youngsters gain no new training and education possibilities.

The Aubry plan is more generous than the British one. offering youngsters the £125-aweek French minimum wage

infuse the new policy with

"quality, continuity and em-

ployability". Data published

yesterday shows that the Train-

ing and Enterprise Councils,

which will help to deliver the policy, have already recorded a

siibstantial increase in qualifi-

cations achieved on courses

they manage for young people.
The New Deal will provide four options which the entrant

will be invited to choose as part of a process of induction:

a subsidised job with the private

sector, work with a voluntary

organisation or with an

environmental task force, or

full-time education or training.

course civil servant mentors

will attempt to guide those

whose prospects have not im

proved "to avoid their slipping

Ministers have earmarked

pack into disillusionment".

£3.5bn over the next four years

for the policy and 13 pilot

schemes all over the country are

expected to start next January.

withhold 40 per cent of an individual's personal benefit for

"unreasonably" refusing the

opportunities on offer. A

yoling, fit, single man without dependents living at home

would see his state payments re-

duced from £37.90 to £22.74.

against recalcitrants, have been

unable to overcome misgiv-

ings. Clara O'Donnelly, re-

searcher at the Charity-funded

Employment Unit, argues that

there are many within the Em-

ployment Service which em-

phasises the need to "police"

new initiative depends not only

on the commitment of politi-

cians, but also on the attitude

dealt-with other schemes are in-

credibly enthusiastic. They say

they wouldn't have liked any

of their children to have gone

She argues the success of the

"Senior officials who have

people on to schemes.

. of officials.

Ministerial assurances that the "stick" will be used sparingly

The Government plans to

For those completing the

Britain prefers carrot

and stick approach

These, she explains, are the for five years. The Brown scheme offers a £60 to £75-aweek refund to employers who take on jobless youngsters for six months - with the same fond hope that the jobs will continue unaided afterwards.

Alternatively, British youngsters can earn slightly more than their state benefit if they take a six-month job in the voluntary sector. Like the French programme, the aim is to create "intermediate" jobs which benefit the community - not quite profitable enough for the private sector, not quite urgent enough for the public sector.

The success or failure of the two programmes may decide which of the two left-wing governments elected this summer seizes the intellectual and moral leadership of the European left. The British plan is tougher, drawing on workfare ideas from the US. The French plan is more thorough, allowing five years for the youngsters





O% FINANCE OVER 3 YEARS.

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RENAULT

RENAULT HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY.

job six months after leaving the on those, but believe it is posscheme. Just 4 per cent secured sible that the new initiative the old apprentice-level skills. may given young people some-... Using the windfall tex on prithing to take away with them," vatised utilities, Labour has

12/POLITICS



John Prescott (with Peter Hain in the background) campaigning on the referendum in Pontypridd yesterday

Pass the plate, Paddy...don't worry about the policies

"Paddy! Hil Come in! Good to move to this chair next to me, see you. You know Gordon, Peter, Jack and - of course - Big John. And your team is ..? Alan I know, Ming I know, Lord Holme I know, Lembit ... er ... I'm sorry. Lembit Opik! Of course. Is Opik an Irish name, Lembit? Estoniau, silly me. Impressive nation, the Estonians. I had the Estonian PM over here a month ago, talking about bauxite, I think. And there's an Estonian in Euan's class at the Oratory. What's that, Gordon? It's a Fino-Ugrian language, apparently, according to Gordon, and loosely related to Magyar. You always learn something with the Chancellor in the room.

"And how are Jane? And the children? And, of course, the little grandson? I found those photographs during the election of you and the baby in France genuinely moving. Y'know, Paddy, I often think about being a granddad, strolling over the hills, that little hand clamped in mine. Eventually, but not yet, eh! Anyway, sit down, sit down! Paddy, sit there on the opposite side of the table. When the photographers have taken their snaps you can

if you'd like.

"Now, who wants some tea? Or coffee? Jack, that's four teas, and four coffees. I'll just stick to the carrot juice, thanks. Some cake, Paddy? I'm told by my office that this is your favourite - lemon drizzle cake as made by Mrs Tarantino of Eastbourne. Take two, take two. Surely you've got room for

more - an ex-Marine like you! "Look, I really am grateful to you for giving up your time like this. I know how busy you

SKETCH BY DAVID **AARONOVITCH**

are. But I'm hoping that this can be a regular consultation, with your views and contributions feeding directly into the Government's deliberations and -I'm not afraid to say it - sometimes even affecting the policy of the Government itself. Tradition demands that we attend different conferences, stand different candidates, and emphasise different policies, but the voters know that we have a great deal in common. They know that we can work together, whether it be John here, you. Paddy, or even old Kenneth Clarke, in equal partnership.

I have to say - you know how immensely impressed I was with all your work up in Scotland. Donald says that if it weren't for you, the Yes vote could easily have slipped below the 70 per cent mark. Wales is a big of a cliffhanger, though, isn't it? Next item is the reform of the House of Lords. Paddy, your plate's empty, and I did get the cake especially for you. Look, the good news is that we're going to do it as soon as we possibly can, certainly in the next year or two.

"Now I know you're concerned with progress on Freedom of Information. [interrupted by aide]. Gosh, is that the time? I've got the Guatamalan President for lunch over at the Palace and I really shouldn't keep Her Majesty waiting. She's had a very hard time of it. Paddy, Alan, Richard, Ming, Limpet, good and useful to see you all. We must do it again. Soon."

1

Hague makes final pitch for Wales

yesterday paid his last visit to Wales to rally support for the no vote before today's referendum. Meanwhile, plans were being drawn up for using the Conservative conference to stop anti-Hague sniping. Tony Heath and

William Hague

Like a football manager struggling to enthuse a team faced with relegation, William Hague trotted on to the pitch of Wales yesterday to gee-up the anti-devolutionists in the build-up to today's poli.

At the same time, it emerged in London that John Major and Baroness Thatcher could play key roles at the party conference next month to help secure a show of support for their successor.

In Wales, Mr Hague's message to a gathering in Monmouth - a couple of dozen "No" supporters waving placards and a handful of puzzled citizens attracted by the inevitable media scrum - was simple.

An elected assembly would do nothing to improve services like education and health and would cost more than £1m over four years. "It would be nothing more than a talking shop and a terrible waste of money," the leader of the Opposition declared.

With Wales a Tory-free zone since the general election. Mr Hague relied on the support of Michael Ancram, the Tories' constitutional supremo, and two colleagues who lost their seats on 1 May. Sebastian Coe was kept busier signing autographs than his leader, meeting a public whose uninterest occasionally verged on boredom.

After having his photograph taken next to a "No Waiting" traffic sign – something the likes of Peter Mandelson would never have allowed - Mr Hague posed beneath a statue of Charles Rolls, a co-founder of Rolls Royce, who live near the

Mr Hague avoided accidents by carefully repeating the mantra that, as Secretary of State for Wales under John Major, he had upped the country's profile, brought in barrowloads of inward investment and had

learnt to love his fiefdom. His own true love, Ffion Jenkins, the daughter of Emyr Jenkins, chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales, was elsewhere. Mr Hague skillfulfiancée's devolution leanings.

During his trip, Mr Hague attempted to deflect the attacks on his adviser, Alan Duncan. He said: "Everything I said was my responsibility. I see one or two comments about advisers of mine. I take the responsibility for what I do and I will worry about who my advisers are. We don't live in a one-party state. It's not illegal to criticise the Government. We have been criticising them where they deserve it on a range of matters."

Mr Hague returned to London last night for a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet at which the arrangements for the morale boosting party conference were being discussed.

After suffering the heaviest political defeat this century, Mr Major is expected to meet a wave of sympathy at the conference, and give his backing to Mr Hague, Lady Thatcher, who still carries weight with the rank and file, will appear on the platform later in the week to reinforce her support for the new leader.

This may be seen as an attempt to shore up support for Mr Hague, but last night the rumblings of discontent within the Shadow Cabinet over his leadership appear to have

The Tory leader is anxious also to avoid a rebuff at the party conference over reforms to the party being drawn up by Archie Norman, Some activists in the Tory Charter Movement will oppose them, but they will go through to a full-scale conference in the Spring. He said he would quit the leadership if they were rejected, raising the stakes to ensure they get through.

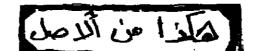
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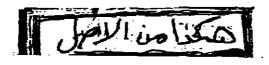
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13/POLITICS

Unionist standard bearers square up to Sinn Fein

David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party yesterday took a hugely significant step in the Northern Ireland peace process by joining the Stormont talks which include Sinn Fein. David Mckittrick, Ireland Correspondent, reports they are expected to meet the republicans face-to-face next week.

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The Ulster Unionist at the gate, wearing a pinstripe suit and holding an incongruous can of Coke, got the message to his party colleagues that Gerry Adams and Sinn Fein had safely entered the talks building. The coast was clear. The cheerful Stormout gatekeeper swung open the big gate and in they flowed, a slow-moving phalanx of 30 men and a couple of women, the standard-bearers of Ulster Unionism on their way to confront Sinn Fein.

David Trimble led the way, flanked by MPs John Taylor and Ken Maginnis, walking towards the massed media. He had, as they say up the Shankill, brought backings with him, for he led in not just his own party but also the two small but important loyalist groupings, the Progressive Unionists and Ulster Democratic party.

They made their way towards the second gate at a dignified pace, then Mr Trim-

ble paused to tell the cameras: "We are not bombing in Markethill could not deflect. here to negotiate with Sinn Fein but to confront them - to expose their fascist character. Unionism will not be marginalised."

Unknown to Mr Trimble, a Sinn Fein representative leaned in from the edge of the media scrum to hear his words, with what looked suspiciously like the trace of a smile. He seemed pleased at the UUP leader's words, signifying as they did that a face-to-face encounter was not far off.

David Ervine of the PUP said a few words, as did the UDP's Gary McMichael, whose father, a loyalist paramilitary leader, was killed by the IRA. Then they walked through the doors that would lead them into talks. Close up, it seemed less like a bold radical initiative than bowing to the inevitable. With John Major in power the UUP spent months fending off contact with the republicans; the change came when Tony Blair took over.

Yesterday the party was caught in a pincer movement, one part of which was government pressure to get into talks. The other came from underneath - from, astonishingly, the once legendarily intractable loyalist grassroots. First an opinion poll showed 93 per cent of the party's supporters wanted talks, and then, at Saturday's meeting of the party executive, more than 30 of the 36 speakers urged dialogue. Together these forces made entry into the

The Rev Ian Paisley's party remains aloof, yesterday accusing Mr Trimble of being "terrorised to the talks table." But the loyalist paramilitary hardliners, who are in a position to attack the talks with much more than mere rhetoric, were there in Mr Trimble's phalanx, ready to talk.

The three-party arrangement represented a display of Unionist and loyalist solidarity, though it did so at some cost to the arguments Mr Trimble will use in the talks when he insists on arms de-commissioning. In the ranks of his phalanx were four men who committed six murders and served long sentences for them. Though known now as politicos, the illegal groups which their parties represent are as adamant as the IRA that no guns will be de-commissioned this side of a settlement.

Mr Maginnis seemed his usual affable self during the walk but the day must have been difficult for him. He has been an IRA target for more than a quarter of a century, first as a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment and then as an MP.

He spoke once of his murdered colleagues: "I think I have lost almost all my closest friends in the UDR ... all decent, dependable fellows." But yesterday he walked into Stormont to see if he could do business with republicans, wondering, with everyone, else whether through talks the talks an imperative which even Tuesday's hurt might some day be replaced with hope.

Low paid

health staff

hoping for

wage gain

The Government

yesterday announced a

for all NHS staff from

consultants to hospital

porters. Colin Brown, Chief

Political Correspondent,

workers at the bottom.

Thousands of low-paid health

workers who lost out under the Tories are hoping they will catch up lost ground as a result of a fundamental review of pay within the National Health Service. Many of those on less

than £4 an hour are not covered

by pay review bodies and their

union, Unison, estimates that

they have seen their pay slip by

25 per cent compared with other groups since the independent pay review bodies

Ministers called for affordable settlements in next year's pay round, but yesterday in its evidence to two of the NHS pay

review bodies, the Department of Health announced that the

whole system was under review.

isting independent pay review bodies for doctors, dentists,

nurses, midwives and groups allied to medicine - about 60 per cent of the 900,000 NHS employees - being replaced by a single system for determining pay in all grades. Low-paid workers, such as porters, not currently covered, could be included for the first time. GPs, nurses and dentists are being consulted, but they are opposed to the change. The

British Medical Association has criticised the Doctors and Dentists' Pay Review Body but is

ready to defend its indepen-

dence. "We have criticised their findings but we have not criticised the concept of an independent body," a BMA source said. "We would be very hostile

Nurses have expressed wor-

ries, and the British Dental As-

sociation said: "We would be

concerned that if the pay of all

NHS healthcare professionals

were brought into a single system, the voices of small groups

Unison said that all the grades it represented, including

nurses, were united behind a

fairer pay system. A spokeswoman said they hoped for "a

single pay spine for all groups".

and conditions harmonised for

Ministerial sources were worried that the consultation will raise false hopes of a massive pay rise for the low paid. "We are talking about greater equity but anything that is suggested has got to be affordable," said a source. That could mean slicing the cake differently, without increasing it.

might not be heard."

all groups.

to abolishing it."

This could lead to the ex-

were set up in 1984.

reports on a hint of

optimism among

review of the pay system



Talking point: David Trimble (front) and Gary McMichael at Stormont yesterday Photograph: Martin Wright/Pacemaker

'Lab-Dem' committee begins work on reforms

The new "Lab-Dem" Cabinet committee joined by Paddy Ashdown and other Liberal Democrats met for the first time yesterday afternoon to discuss an agenda for consti-

tutional reform. After a 90-minute working session in the Cabinet room at Number 10 the Liberal Democrat leader said: "Building on the momentum of the referendums in Scotland and in Wales, we are modernising

look forward to building on that so we can work together to modernise Britain's constitution in the future."

With the meeting bound by the confidentiality that surrounds all Cabinet discussion, Mr Ashdown and his four parliamentary colleagues refused to go into detail about the substance of the talks, but the Prime Minister's office said the main constitutional is-

constructive meeting and we together on the referendum campaigns and agreed to cooperate closely on the legislation which follows," a spokesman said.

Members of the committee recognise that cross-party cooperation will help avoid some of the problems associated with the déhâcle over the failure of Labour's devolution package in the 1970s.

The meeting also included discussion about the incorporation into UK law of the

first national elections to be held under proportional representation - and the creation of a commission to consider an agreed option on PR for Westminster parliamentary elections, to be set up this autumn.

That commission will report within a year, and there will be a referendum offering the voters PR for general elections - to be staged before the next election. Completion of the process could then be



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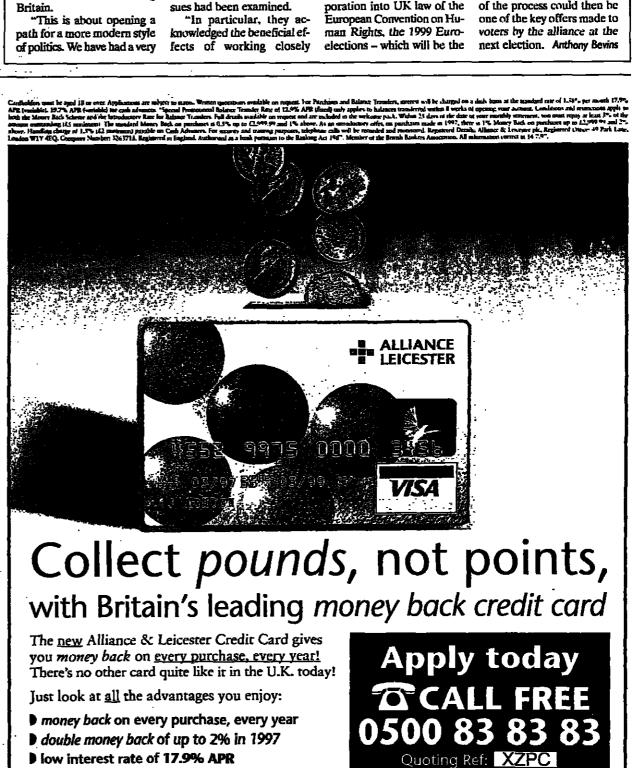
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Sex-crime rate triples as convictions fall

Record numbers of rapes are being reported to the police, yet only a tiny proportion of the attackers are being convicted.

Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports on the alarming statistics and new proposals to give victims a fairer deal.

Radical changes to the way that rape victims are treated in court, including the use of screens, are expected to be introduced after figures were released showing that only one sex attacker in 10 is jailed.

While the number of reported rapes has tripled in the past 11 years, the conviction rate has more than halved, a police conference heard yesterday.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said he was examining ways to improve the conviction rate and help victims in court. Other improvements being considered may include video links to allow victims to be shielded from their alleged attacker. Laws to ban accused rapists from cross-examining victims are also expected. The Home Office is doing two studies on rape, including one in which 500 attacks in five police forces' areas are being examined. A second study is examining the criminal justice system to discover what is going wrong. The reports are expected next year.

The Superintendents' Association national conference in Bristol was told that in 1985 there were 1,842 reported rapes of women; there were 5,930 last year. But the proportion of men successfully prosecuted has plummeted from 24 per cent - 450 men

 in 1985 to 10 per cent - 576 men - last year. The tiny number of convictions and unwillingness of people to report the crime is blamed on such factors as hostile conditions and cross-examination in courts and lurid details published by the press. The Crown Prosecution Service has also been accused of being unwilling to bring cases to court because of fears of the credibility in court of the victim, particularly in "date" or "acquaintant" rapes.

Detective Superintendent Bill Grahamslaw, of the Metropolitan Police, said it was extremely difficult for people to come forward and report a rape when the attacker was known to them because of fears the assailant will claim the victim consented.

The conference heard from a woman who told of being raped by a priest and family friend who made her pregnant and gave her herpes. She praised the police support but said the trial made her "nervous and upset". Her requests for a screen in court were rejected by the judge because the attacker was known to her. She said: "At the moment the victims are left to feel they are yesterday. the ones committing the crime and are put on trial." In this case her attacker was found guilty and jailed for six years.



Heavy brigade: Doormen are accused of being involved in drugs and violence

Bouncers behaving 'like the Krays'

Bouncers are acting as modern-day gangsters in the mould of the infamous Kray twins, a senior police officer warned

Doormen are involved in drug trafficking and violence at bars and nightclubs throughout Britain, said Chief Superin- hiding behind consultancies.

tendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Smerintendents' Association.

He called for stricter controls on bouncers and the introduction of a licensing system. He said that criminals were evading local-authority registration schemes by

Clue of second car followed up in Diana death inquiry

Police investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are searching for a Fiat Uno which may have collided with her Mercedes before the accident in Paris two weeks ago. The investigators also hope to have a first interview tomorrow with the only survivor, the bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, who is recovering in a Paris hospital.

Water B.

Investigators say they have found slivers of plastic which may have come from the tail-light of a Fiat Uno. Although this may be debris from an earlier collision, the pieces were discovered among fragments of glass from the headlights of the Mercedes which carried Diana's party. Both the glass and plastic pieces were found near where the Mercedes hit a pillar holding up an underpass in central Paris. A scratch on the front wing of the Mercedes also points to a possible glancing collision. Sources told Agence France-Presse they regard this as only a "slim" chance but every lead would be followed up.

The investigators are said to have excluded the possibility that the tiny, low-powered Fiat, if such a car were involved, belonged to photographers pursuing Diana and her companion, Dodi Fayed. Investigators believe the Mercedes, driven by Henri Paul, who also died, was travelling at 90 to 110mph. The assumption is that the Mercedes may have come upon another car going at a much slower speed (the limit is 30mph at that point) and that Paul was unable to swerve in time. Alternatively, the car may have joined the underpass from a slip-road which appears from the right just before the tunnel proper. The possibility that another car was passively involved in the accident has never been completely dismissed by investigators. This is one of the main areas of uncertainty which Paris police hope will be cleared up by Mr

Pill touted as beer-gut cure

A pill before a pint could keep unsightly beer bellies at bay, it emerged yesterday. Beer Blok, a herbal remedy, is claimed to prevent beer-drinkers putting on the pounds. If drinkers take a tablet 15 minutes before the first pint and another before every subsequent beer, carbohydrates which normally turn to fat are destroyed. The suppliers, Nutri-health, whose spokesman rejoices in the name Steve Freak, said that within two to four weeks it has a stimming effect on 70-80 per cent of drinkers who take it.

But Alcohol Concern said the product will simply encourage people to drink more beer. A spokesman for the charity said: "If people are controlling their drinking because they are worried about putting on weight, a claim such as this removes that barrier, encouraging people to drink more heavily and to excess. barrier, encouraging people to drink more heavily and to excess. "We are always very sceptical of claims like these - people have been drinking time, if each of claims like these - people have been drinking time, if the last of the lesser dangers of drinking large amounts of beer. There are all sorts of other heath risks like liver disease, heart disease and cancer, which are the more serious - and this product doesn't address my which are the last first figure for 60, were researched and manufactured in Tiones. No clinical trials have been carried out.

Boys charged with rape

Two 12-year-old boys yesterday appeared in court charged with the rape of a five-year-old girl.

Leeds Youth Court remanded them into the care of the local authority until Wednesday. Both spoke only to confirm their names and addresses. The alleged rape took place next to Hare-hills Cemetery, Deeds, on Sunday. Police, told of the incident by the girl's family on Monday, videoed an interview with her.

Fur flees as vandals strike

Police warned people not to approach 500 wild mink which escaped after vandals ripped down fences and overturned pens at a farm in Moor Hey Lane, Upper Edge, Elland, West Yorkshire. Detective Inspector Martin Jordan, of Calder Valley Police, said: "As a precaution, members of the public should not approach these animals. They are, after all, wild animals and should only be handled by professionals."

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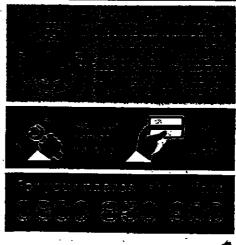
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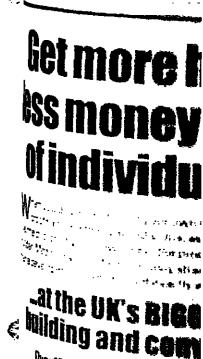


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White flag is raised in battle of the press barons

Fireworks, if not fisticuffs, were expected yesterday when the editors of two Tory national newspapers came face-to-face after a ferocious public feud following the death of Diana. Princess of Wales. But, as Rob Brown, Media Editor. explains, peace appears

to have broken out.

Charles Moore, editor of the Daily Telegraph, is rarely bested in the self-righteous stakes. And so it proved yesterday when the code of practice committee of the Press Complaints Commission met to discuss how the press might win back public trust in the aftermath of Princess Diana's death.

Mr Moore arrived at the meeting, held in the Newspaper Society's offices in Bloomsbury, north London, armed with a letter from Earl Spencer, in which the princess's brother appealed to the press to put its own house in order or Parliament would bring forth privacy legislation.

"I wanted to put a bomb untabloids about their intrusion crime in 1920s Chicago.

into the lives of members of the royal family," said Mr Moore. We've done that very strongly for the last week and people have noticed. Earl Spencer and I are both trying in quite separate ways to draw attention to the crisis of confidence in the press caused by the intrusion of privacy."

The letter from the earl was addressed to the entire committee, comprising a dozen editors drawn from the regions as well as the nationals. But Mr Moore must have savoured the fact that it had been faxed to his office and not that of the committee's chairman, Six David English, editor-in-chief of The Daily Mail.

Scarcely had Diana's body been laid to test at her ancestral home in Althorp, Northamptonshire, before a vicious slanging match erupted between the Mail and the Telegraph. The unseemly squabble started when Mr Moore accused the Mail of being prominent in the media pack which hounded Diana.

Conrad Black, Canadian proprietor of the Telegraph, then penned a polemical letter in which he stated that having Sir David English as chairman of the commission's code of practice committee was like der the complacency of the having Al Capone investigating

Paul Dacre, editor of the Mail, weighed in, through an article in The Guardian, in which he claimed that Princess Diana liked his paper. "It might grieve Charles Moore to know that, next to the dreaded paparazzi, the princess most disliked him and his paper," he wrote.

This was followed up yesterday by a letter from Lord Rothermere, chairman of the Daily Mail and General Trust, which was published on the Telegraph's letters page.

Last night, however, a truce appeared to have been reached. Sir David phoned Mr Moore with what he called "a flag of truce". But he swiftly added: "We weren't pleading for peace and begging for mercy."

The Telegraph editor agreed to call a halt to hostilities. But he made sure everyone knew that Sir David had been the first to wave a white flag.

Meanwhile, following yes terday's meeting, the PCC said it is to examine its code of practice and in particular the issues highlighted by Diana's death press intrusion, harassment and respect for privacy.

"As those charged with defining the code of practice, which sets the benchmarks for the ethical and professional standards of journalism, we ... are now undertaking an orgent review," it said.



VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE

The last proper English press baron, this old Etonian wouldn't savour a slanging match with some uppity colonial. But don't be fooled by his benign patrician appearance or his devotion to Buddhism.

The win-at-all-costs culture at Associated Newspapers stems from his steely determination to preserve the Harmsworth Inheritance. At 72 that remains un stinted. By and large, though, he is a delegator, employing others to read the pulse of Middle England. Apart from letter in the Telegraph yesterday, hitting back at Black, he has left it to Sir David English (Chairman of Associated) and Paul Dacre (Editor of the Daily Mail) to defend the honour of the Daily Mail.



CONRAD BLACK

Having emerged from the frozen north of Canada to construct an international newspaper empire from scratch, the 49-year-old proprietor of the Telegraph is as pugnacious as he is rapacious.

Driven apparently by a sense of divine destiny he tends to heap unholy abuse on those who thwart his acquisitive ambitions. His verbal assaults are often elaborately phrased, reflecting his rich vocabulary and immense erudition. Not much consolation to those on the receiving end. But it's wiser to exchange insults rather than punches. As one biographer said, he has "the physique of a prizefighter and shoulders as broad as an Alberta buffalo".

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Wakeham promises tough new privacy rules

Lord Wakeham has promised that the **Press Complaints** Commission's new code will impose the toughest restrictions on newspaper behaviour, writes Paul McCann.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, promised the toughest Princess of Wales, has focused tightening of the rules governing newspaper behaviour after tion on press intrusion, havesterday's a meeting of the PCC code committee.

The new rules are likely to outlaw completely the use of of Practice, which sets the photographs taken on private property, but may add protection from harassment of people in churches and restaurants. It is also likely to strengthen the urgent review of the code.

protection of minors from any press coverage without their parents' consent. Agreement on respecting the privacy of Princes William and Harry is also expected.

The new code is expected to be ready after a full meeting of the PCC on 24 September.

In a statement following the meeting yesterday, the committee said it was undertaking an "urgent" review of the code. "The tragic death of Diana, unprecedented public attenrassment and respect for privacy," it said. "As those charged with defining the Code

nalism, we recognise this. "We are now undertaking an

benchmarks for the ethical and

professional standards of iour-

"As an industry we emphasise the need for the code to be followed not just in the letter but in its full spirit.

"We support Lord Wakeham's calls for wide-ranging and rigorous reforms and recognise that there is a shared determination to rid our publications of practices which we all

plore." "Lord Wakeliam described exidenting as "very constructive", adding: "I am on comse week. The paparazzi is part of the problem, in the sense that it is the conduct of photographers generally we want to put

Referring to criticisms of the media made by Earl Spencer at his sister's funeral, he said: "Earl Spencer's views are very well known to me. He is very concerned about these issues."

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16/DESPATCHES

After four years, Poland's Solidarity stages a comeback

The pendulum is swinging back in Poland. After its crushing defeat four years ago, Solidarity enters Sunday's parliamentary elections with a good chance of

toppling its eternal enemy – the left. Imre Karacs reports from It was like old times at the Ursus clubhouse. The audience have grown chubbier since

the days when the tractor plant was an epicentre of revolt, but outdoor mass last Sunday. the message from the rostrum The omens for divine retrihas barely changed. Poles had to make a final stand against the "communist oligarchies", intoned the speaker, Maciej Jankowski The Solidarity boss, head of

the trade union in the Warsaw

that he was referring to "postcommunists", but hastened to add that the threat was no less acute, Another term, and you'll never get rid of them, he

In an exceptionally tranquil campaign, that is as far as opposition politicians will go to invoke the Apocalypse. The Church - Our Church, as a Solidarity official instinctively refers to it - has not seen the need to be so restrained. "Communism is like a cancer, and it has to be removed," declared Warsaw's auxiliary Archbishop, Zbigniew Kraszewski, at an

bution look good. Four years in the wilderness have brought some of the children of the revolution together. United again in a 36-party block called Solidarity Election Action, they are running neck and neck in the

polls with the main governing party, the Democratic Left Alliance. Although there are at least 20 permutations in the Lego-like game to build the new government, the multi-party arithmetic favours Solidarity.

The party-cum-trade union will have to make do without Lech Walesa. The Gdansk electrician has put away his toolbox, and now sparkles only on the global lecture circuit. His successor, Marian Krzaklewski, is assured only of the former president's vague sympathy.

He will need more than that to defeat the most stable government in the postcommunist era. Four years and only one prime minister lost to unproven allegations that he used to work for the secret police - is the proud record of the outgoing administration. That and unprecedented economic boom, with annual growth of 6 per cent in the last three years, most inefficient in Europe.

unemployment down by a third and real incomes soaring.

"A good today, a better tomorrow," the ex-communists' election posters pledge. Against that, Solidarity can only carp. The boom, it argues with some justification, is the direct result of reforms launched by its government on the first day of this decade. Three years later, the "shock therapy" drove the doctor out of business, but the beneficial effects are now being felt.

Not everybody has gained, of course. On the street, old ladies sell off the last threadbare items from their wardrobe. Even the government admits that the pension system, costing companies 48 per cent of staff wages, is a disaster. Unemployment still lurks around 12 per cent, and much of the country's heavy industry is kept afloat only by subsidies. Agriculture is reckoned to be the

With the economy ticking over nicely and Poland set for EU and Nato membership with bipartisan support, Solidarity only has the anti-communist card to play. The government's recent efforts to pack the boards of state-run companies and the civil service with party loyalists has brought back mories of the communist's nomenklatura of old.

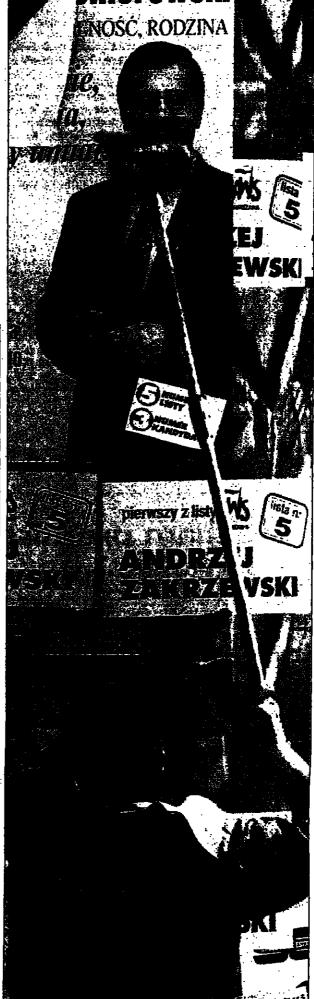
"The most important thing is to get the ex-communists out of power," says the Solidarity spokesman Wojciech Blasiak There is corruption in the government; they sell official positions to their friends; they are incompetent."

Whatever the government's flaws, international business appears convinced that the excommunists are the lesser of the many possible evils on offer. The trade unionists in the nominally right-wing Solidarity alliance worry foreign capitalists proclaimed leftists in the government, who were applauded by one US agency recently for their effort to turn themselves into a "conservative social democratic party".

Some of the Polish press has gone to great lengths to exposethe home-grown Reds, particularly those under the bed, but without much success. Last week a newspaper was forced to eat its words after linking - but not nailing - President Alexan-der Kwasniewski to the KGB.

Solidarity's promise to cleanse public life of former secret agents has struck a chord. providing the opposition with a rare area of attack.

Devising a reliable system for spy-catching will be harder than Solidarity pretends. But as ideological differences fade, it pays to maintain the one barrier which still separates the jailers of yesterday from the jailed.



Eye catcher: A worker puts up a poster in Warsaw yesterday for a Solidarity coalition candidate

Bosnian crash kills diplomat

Sarajevo — The United Nations said 11 people, including a leading German diplomat, were killed when a helicopter slammed into a hill in central Bosnia yesterday. Officials said that Gerd Wagner, the German deputy to Carlos Westendorp, the international High Representative to Bosnia, was among the dead.

Five other passengers were injured in the crash at about 10am, according to the UN spokesman Liam McDowall A Foreign Office spokeswoman said last night that a British man was reportedly on board, but that his fate was not known.

COLLINS

The helicopter, a Ukrainian aircraft hired by the UN mission, took off from Sarajevo at about 9.15am. It was carrying senior officials in the UN mission and other international organisations to talks with local authorities in the town of Bugojno in Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation.

The Nato-led peace force said it had sent helicopters to the site of the crash in a mountainous region around Foinica, about 50km (30 miles) northwest of the capital Sarajevo. "The search and rescue op-

eration is completed," Mr Mc-

Dowall said. CAR INSURANCE Looking PHONE FREE for the 0500 333 premium? 600

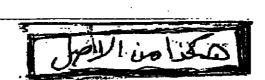
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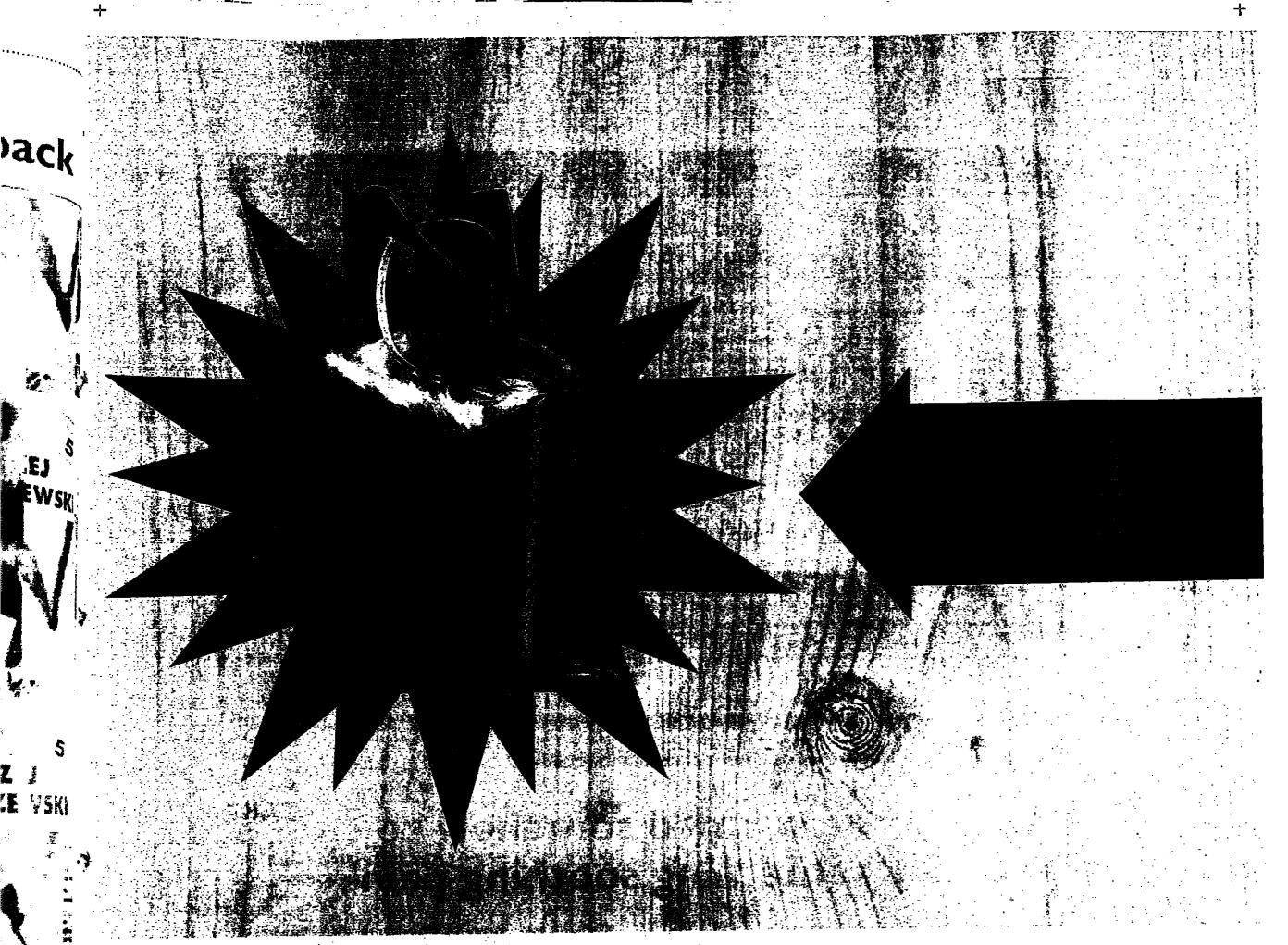
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Before Princess Diana's funeral, few had ever heard of John Tavener. By its close, almost the whole world had heard his 'flights of angels' sing her to her rest. Here the composer of the 'Song for Athene' tells Nicholas Roe how the roots of his music lie in the birth of his brother and the

I can see it now. I was three years old. I can see the piano I played and I can see the gramophone player which I also played endiessly, endiessly, endiessly the same music, all the time my mother was in hospital. I can't see any particular significance in the music itself - it was Humperdinck's "Brother, Come Dance With Me" from Hansel and Gretel; so that isn't important, although when I hear it even nowadays it has a very emotional effect on me. But the fact that I needed music in every form was

I was very close to my mother and at that stage I was the only child. My sister had died at birth and my mother had had such enormous difficulty giving birth to me

Because of this, when she had my brother they kept her in hospital for quite

some time. But I had no idea why she had had to go away. She had just gone and I'm

told I played the piano all the time or I went back to this gramophone, wound it up and asked for this record to be put on again and

The ghost or echo I have is music whether on the wind-up gramophone or the piano, it seemed somehow to comfort me and I remember it so vividly as some-

Later every time I did it, it seemed to soothe pain, and it's only now, at the age

wrong but that is how it seemed to me.

of what I am and often the music teaches

me something. Does that make sense? It's

part of a spiritual journey, and the jour-

ney in my case takes place through writ-

ing music and it tells me things about my

life. The act of writing puts me almost in

a trance state, where I feel enormously close

death of his mother

important.

that she nearly lost me.

again and again.

thing like soothing pain.

18/FEATURES



Tavener: 'The music I write is far ahead of what I am'

he invention all sion of the

'The music seemed somehow to comfort me, like something soothing pain'

of 53, that I can finally understand why. Because I see it as a form of prayer. I might be completely crackers and have got it Orthodox tones, or how the services are I feel that the music I write is far ahead put together - just to react to the text.

When my version of the liturgy was celebrated, I was pounced on by members of the Orthodox congregation, who said: "You have not written this in the prescribed tone; you have set this to your own music" and it had a paralysing effect on me. I knew they were right but I had to discover why they were right.

I see this with hindsight, of course. It It was the discovery of tradition. When really became clear to me much later, af-I was three, I connected prayer with comter my mother died in 1983. But another posing. Now I was realising that there was this thing called sacred music which had point of revelation was when the head of the Russian Orthodox Church in England nothing to do with Beethoven and Mozart

liturgy without my knowing anything of the thought I had acquired yet was never totally happy with.

I would say that, so far as Western mu-Ages when the scientific revolution degan the ego started to come in more and more; becoming separate - and I can't bear the concept of art for art's sake. It becomes music for the critics.

When people talk about composition they say, "I think he's finding his own voice." Suddenly that seemed to be ridiculous. It was not a question of finding one's own voice, it was a question of finding the voice. It brings into my thought the ques-

asked me, in 1974, to make a setting of the and nothing to do with this knowledge I tion that perhaps music does go right back love most of all", and that for me was link with the sacred.

Again with hindsight, I can say today

Then my mother died and the revelamusic is no longer an act of worship, it starts tion really started to happen. She died of cancer but in a rather wonderful way, because an Orthodox priest was actually in her room and was singing the Office of the Departing of the Human Soul, and at the point of "Amen" she died, which I felt was

appropriate. But it stopped me writing. I didn't want to write at all. I went to see an eminent tra- a new kind of humility. That was very imditionalist who said, "Go to the nature you portant to me and I worked and prayed my

to the beginning of the world, hence the Greece and I did exactly what he told me to do.

sic is concerned, at the end of the Middle that in a way I had to cease to exist as John tel which had been used by Greek con- my head on his relics and I heard the words emborary doets, a very

a unique atmosphere. My intention was not to write, but after about six weeks I found, not against my wili exactly, that I was writing and I couldn't stop. It was a kind of pouring out and there was a connection - although I could never have analysed it - between what I had been doing in the Seventies, and what was coming out now. And the music had

way out of the grief I felt for my mother. I was healed by the landscape and also

by going to visit the relics of a saint - St I stayed in Aegina in a very small ho- Necktarios of Aegina I remember putting heart be also", from the Gospels. I think the point was that I must continue, and must continue writing music because writing music for me is my life and it meant that my life could continue.

The process is going on. Removing formulae, removing any preconceived idea I had about religion or music because I can lump them together. Just allowing something to pass through me. Call it the Holy Spirit, if you like.

A network of friends can be a better prop than one single bloke



Sally's husband left her eight months ago and despite seeing lots of friends she feels unbearably lonely, unable even to buy food if it's not for two. She also longs for sexual physical contact. Will she have to wait till she finds another man, any man?

Feeling lonely is part of bereavement. It doesn't matter how many friends you have, you

may still feel lonely. When my father died. I burst into tears and was comforted by my partner. "But I feel so lonely!" I wailed. He snatched his arms away. "But you've got me!" he replied, hurt. What he didn't understand is that the loneliness following a bereavement is something that stands on its own, unrelated to reality. And the break-up of a relationship is indeed a bereavement, made worse, in Sally's case, by the fact that she was the one who was

> actually left. Some people argue that eventually the feelings of lone-

She will go round supermarkets buying scrummy meals for one, tiny treats of minuscule pots of caviar which she will eat with a tiny spoon as she watches the video of her choice or channelhops to her heart's content. She will go to exhibitions and museums by herself and at her own pace. She will be able to wake up at three in the morning and have a large glass of brandy and fall asleep over a book with the light on.

liness will go and Sally will find

it great fun being on her own.

I've never reached this blissful state, and, like Sally, relieve

feelings of loneliness by surrounding myself with gangs of people. But what Sally will find, after a long time, is that her friends turn into a net of security, and she will find that this giant network is just as much of a prop, if not more so, than one single bloke.

To build this network, however, she must relate to her friends on an emotional level as well as a social one. But there are plenty of people to help her sublimate her feelings of loneliness. Gays, girifriends, children, lonely single or divorced men looking for a spot of moth-

ering rather than sex - the world is bursting with them.

Sally misses sex, but the problem with sex is that the longing is never-ending, like cleaning your teeth. You can't iust have a whole heap of sex and then not want it for a year. But the desire for sex is yet another symptom of bereavement, when sexual feelings can go haywire.

Some women who've been left simply cringe at the idea of being touched by a man; other women get obsessed by it, and can hardly go into the baker's without giving him the

to be the "life and soul" and

then suddenly - wham, it hits

you - there is this incredibly

eye and wondering what he'd be like between the sheets or, indeed, in more interesting places.

It may be that Sally's right

and she misses a man, "any man" as she puts it, for his sheer maleness around the house. A personality is not like a kettle - you can't go to the shop and buy another one - but the maleness of a man is rather like a kettle and in that way ariy man, as long as he is kind and attractive to her, will do. There's no shame in that. Many men primarily want a woman round the house, long before

they want "this particular" woman or "that special" lady. This is why people get together via lonely hearts columns, which might well be an answer for Sally, though not so early on

in the game. Sally's real problem is that she is looking for relief from her pain so quickly. She doesn't say how long she was married, but seven months is no time at all. After a 16-year relationship it's been two years until I've felt remotely human again. Sally, too, will feel human again, but it will take far longer than she thinks.

WHAT READERS SAY

You will get through this

Having experienced Sally's feelings of loneliness I can understand how she feels. Waves of depression would engulf me. leaving me physically incapable of doing anything. Like her I led a full life socially. For a few years, though I admitted it to no one, I longed for a man, someone who would love me and whom I could love. But, having a fatalist side to my nature. I never actively looked for one. I learnt that one always came through the bleak periods supported by family and friends. I got to know myself

I brought the children up. made a new life for myself and was really enjoying my independence when, whoops, along came someone - totally unexpected! I've had to make further adjustments as I was becoming selfish!

My loneliness/adjustment to divorce took me seven years, but it's different for everyone so live a day at a time. I remarried 14 years later.

To Sally I say, lean on your friends but spread yourself or you risk the friendship; realise that life will get better even if you don't believe it, and take what there is to offer because there is a time and a season for everything - never lose hope. Cleone Augur Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

One day you will fall in

love again My ex had an affair while I was working away, struggling to keep our home. I was overcome with hurt and bitterness. This was a woman whose father I had nursed and was with when he died.

I failed to find some meaning or reason. My feelings

to despair. I was ready to hit the next person who said: "Time is a great healer." But it is. Keep busy - let your friends comfort you - things will get better.

Two years on I had recovered my self-worth, was enjoying my freedom and looking forward to life on my own. I was at peace with myself, then I fell in love with the most wonderful woman. We are now married with a baby on the way. The time was right. You'll

know when it is for you. John Harbourne Crosby, Liverpool

Being married can be far

The loneliness will go, although you may hardly notice it happening. My husband left me five years ago and I too felt desolate, but it now seems like a distant memory.

You might find that braving ranged from anger to loneliness more time on your own will

help you to come to terms with your sifuation. I couldn't go out much when my husband first left because I had two small children. I spent a lot of time with friends or colleagues during the day, but I was usually on my own in the evenings. After a while, I found that I really appreciated this quiet time to myself - reading, pottering or just doing nothing. It seemed to help me regain my sense of self. Five years on I still have no man in my life, nice though that might be, but I am happier and less lonely than I now realise I was in my marriage.

Flora Jamieson London SE24 Pain is part of the

healing process Having gone through the same experience as your reader - I've been in the situation where, yes, you can be in a crowded room and, yes, you can even appear

lonely feeling in the pit of your stomach which slowly spreads to every nerve in your body and you think nobody else can even begin to understand the desolation you are feeling. Sometimes this is where panic can set in. The only advice I can give is to try to accept this feeling when it sweeps over you - after all it is a vital part of the healing process. Once you realise these feelings are completely normal - you are after all grieving - you'll find that the feeling of utter desolation and despair lessens over a period of time and you will, I promise, come out of your experiences a much stronger person with the

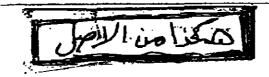
capacity to love and be loved

again - happily this I also know from experience. Liz McGeechan

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA:

Dear Virginia, I am in a very responsible job in a small firm and have been given increasing responsibility over the years. It suits me perfectly because it's down the road and my boss is very understanding about letting me always go early enough to pick my son up from school, and allows me time off for school events and so on. I always make up any work I miss by popping in some Saturdays, however. He will also allow me to work from home if my son is ill, which, admittedly, is hardly ever. My problem is that I have been working for the same salary for the last 10 years and feel I deserve a rise, particularly as I've just discovered that a woman's been taken on in a far less senior position and is being paid almost half as much again as me. I just find it almost impossible to screw up the courage to ask. What is wrong with me? My husband says I'm being taken advantage of.

Comments are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send personal experiences or comments to me at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293-2182) by Tuesday morning. If you have any dilemmas of your own you would like to share, let me know.



The inventions that win favour in a Blairite vision of the Millennium

Yesterday Tony Blair went on television to launch the Millennium Products collection chosen by the Design Council to promote the best of British talent for the 21st century. Products had to have been manufactured between january 1995 and the end of 1997. Here Nonie Niesewand surveys the first 27 products announced in a list which will eventually comprise

On the evidence of the first 1 per cent, the exhibition comes with attitude that is very politically correct and environmentally aware. There is an Oxfam bucket being field tested in Botswana; nothing flashy but an indication that water is going to be a key issue in the 21st century; and the Grippa, a plumber's tool designed to seal leaks. There is a low-tech building (pictured and described on the right), good-looking but no more than that. It was chosen because it pioneers energy saving techniques so dear to the heart of this government. There's a life

raft with a chute which frees itself the minute a ship starts to tilt; laser coded cabling on aircraft that makes maintenance much safer and easier; a pest control device for farmers that reduces that need for environmentally damaging crop spraying. This is not a fun list; the only thing for children is for disabled children. Those who think of the Design Council as a promoter of gadgets and gifts will learn that when Millennial thinking takes hold, the fact that Britain's leadershipin electronics and technology looms larger than souvenirs.

 Grippa stops water mains springing a leak with a plastic pipeline adaptor in three sizes to link all household pipes to the water mains. So many variations in plumbing into the mains means that plumbers carry 20 fittings for each repair.

Grippa Universal Pipeline Adaptor -Products designed by Isis

• On field trial in Botswana, the Oxfam water bucket with a snap-on, nospill lid plus cap and nozzle is concaved to carry on the head. In airlifts, it stacks for food storage on flight. Oxfam Water Container

 A horizontal land gas drilling system reaches parts that other drill bits could not reach. Up to five miles from the rig, the fully rotating head effectively drills around corners to stop oil and gas fields closing down too early. Now it's being tested to extend 10 miles from the rig.
Sucrable Rotary Drilling -Camco International (UK)

Eco-friendly

 Crop spraying needs careful controls since it affects the environment. Pest lifecycles are determined by temperature and the shirt pocket-sized Tempest lights up when conditions are ripe for a plague. Tempest - Insect Investigations



Fashion: wood-fibre Tencel fabric

 The Helicon building has triple glazing with motorised movable louvre blinds between double glazing to cool the façade. Chilled ceilings between every floor replace air conditioning.

Helicon Building by Ove Arup

 Seaweed dressing with polymer film replaces skin. Absorbent, transparent,



Medicine: the Woosh Chair

alginate senweed extractions convert to a gel for removal, without tearing healing tissue, and if thewound is wet the breathable polymer reacts to dry it and maintains moisture levels. Intelligent Wound Dressing - ITG

 Surgical gloves go green if they are punctured to alert surgeons. RIOGEL Reveal - Regent Medical

Artificial limbs with a tiny computer

chip inside adjust the amputee's painfully learnt swing of an artificial leg to their former gait.



• Bright, curvy Woosh chair for disabled children is static and can be modified at low cost for special needs. Woosh Chair - Lecky Design Ltd

• Contact lenses that keep the eye moist for longer are made of bio-compatible phosphorylcholine (PC), which is found in blood cells and stops protein adhering. PC catheters are less likely to become infected just as PC stents prop up damaged arteries. Proclear Contact Lenses - Biocom-

 Cowslip is a recyclable plastic overshoe which comes in two pairs for dairy cows with aching legs. They alleviate pain to increases milk yield and effect a cure for tired legs in a month. Cowstips - Giltspur Scientific

• The first new man-made fibre for 30 years. Made from sustainable wood fibre, unlike the crackly, shiny nylon and rayon, Tencel from Courtaulds drapes well, colours intensely and is durable. Tencel - Courtaulds

 The Rolls-Royce Trent Engine is 1's tons lighter than its rivals. Fan blades made from titanium rather than carbon fibre make it the world's lightest, strongest and most powerful aircraft engine in the world. These weight loss winners allow each aircraft to carry up to 30 more passengers. Trent Engine - Rolls-Royce

The all-weather road and rail bridge in Hong Kong links the island with the new airport and stays open even in typhoons. Lantou Link - Mott Macdonald

 Life rafts with chutes attached are blown clear of containers in emergencies when a ship is in distress. Huge crowds are evacuated down chutes into the attached catchnet of a raft. Marin-Ark Marine Evacuation System

 Pail-safe laser labelling for military and commercial aeroplanes uses uitraviolet to change the colour indelibly on hundreds of miles of cabling. Capris 50 UV Laser Wire Marker -Spectrum Technologies Ltd

Information Technology

 Forget PIN numbers. Just as no two fingerprints are the same, no two irises are identical. Now automatic telling machines can identify by their eyes anybody wanting to withdraw cash. The machine also issues everything from money and airline tickets to information on the video screen. Persona S.ATM -NCR Financial Systems Ltd

 Shoppers at Safeways get a handheld rod with their trolley which scans purchases and tots up the bill before check-out. Shop & Go - Safeway Stores

• The new mega byted Psion series 5 is a more powerful palm-top computer with a keyboard and touch-sensitive screen which can write documents, create spreadsheets, make diary entries, access e-mail and track share prices. Psion Series 5

· BT already has 200 public Internet booths open in London like phone boxes offering 20 channels of news, sport, weather and leisure activity with interactive access. BT Touchpoint

 The London stock exchange's 200year-old monopoly is broken by an automatic transaction service conducted online, real-time, by computer rather than by telephone, without a broker. Tradepoint Financial Networks

 The world's smallest camera attached to your PC means you can video-conference the world. Universal Serial Bus Camera -Vision

Entertainment

• Fibre-optic cables can beam into your nome multiple channels. But accessing them is expensive. This new silicon transceiver reduces costs by translating light data into digital information. ASOC Optical Fibre Transceivers

 Could you spot the real Dalamtians from the fakes in 101 Dalmatians? Animatronics hide a person inside an animal costume to manipulate hand and body movements while, off screen, a puppeteer with a joystick changes expressions. Creature Shop created Babe, the pig, out of computer graphics with animatronics and now they're building Buddy the gorilla. Buddy - Jim Henson's Creature Shop

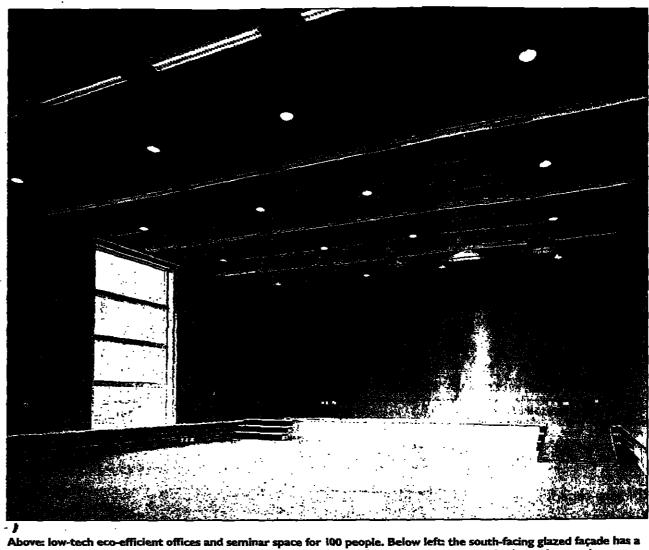
· Mobile phones can access personalised information via the Internet. Genie bleeps to alert the user to share price changes, broadcast bulletins, job vacancies, TV listings and SO OIL Genie - Cellnet

Transport: Lantau Bridge in Hong Kong



Entertainment: Buddy - Animatronics

· Run with the dinosaurs on screen with a CD-Rom, starring a giant 3D Tyrannosaurus Rex, which animates dinosaurs and stages a virtual dig to excavate bones which come to life and wait in ambush. Internet links allow the curious to question top palaeontologists. Dinosaur sounds can be downloaded_ Evewitness VR Dinosaur Hunter - DK Multimedia



solar panel to store enough sunlight to light the office throughout the year. External motorised translucent glass louvres control glare. Below right: recycled materials are important, so old bricks were used - a problem, as t0hey were sized in imperial measurements and the architects' floor plans were metric





They dropped bricks on the road to efficiency

Building 16, a new addition to the Design Council's milennial list, is a model for energy efficient office buildings of the future. Utilising natural energy sources, it could prove to be an architectural milestone - but only time will tell.

Building 16 is as energy-efficient an office building as Britain can offer, or so the Design Council hopes. They have put it on their millennial list, but in truth they don't really know whether it works or not. By the time the millennium comes, we will know. Still, it is a three-storeyed building, to be found at the Building Research Establishment at Watford, designed by the Bath practice of Fielden & Clegg to provide "a 30 per cent better energy performance than previous buildings".

It is supposed to be state-of-the-art, and it probably is, but it must be said that the story of its construction had its unstate-of-the-art moments. There was a major glitch at the start: imperial-sized bricks and metric floor plans - and this for BRE, the UK's leading source of independent advice and information on building performance, construction and fire safety.

The bricks were imperial measure because the intention was that it would be built from old bricks recycled - 20,000 of them from the demolished building on the site. But the Portland cement that bonded them meant that nobody could separate them. A crusher had to pulverise them on site. Other salvaged bricks were ordered, finding the right quantity from the same site to ensure continuity of finish and colour. They were found, transported at a cost, and the architects' charges rose with each redesign; as did the main contractor's, due to the care and cutting required in the brick-laying to fit the imperial bricks into a metric building frame.

As for the rest, the on-site recycling did happen. Slate cladding, roofing sheets and cast-iron drains were salvaged from the demolition of a building on site. Roofing timbers were sold to a pine furniture maker, and all the fittings inside, such as fire extinguishers, blinds, light-switches and sockets, were distributed to schools and hospitals.

According to the Building Research Centre, the hassle over the old bricks was worthwhile. The manufacture of new bricks causes environmental damage, which was averted. Besides, the reclaimed bricks give a mellowed character to the building. But, as they put it, they learnt that "greater insight is need-

ed in the role of the reclamation industry in the UK". So how does the building work? It is designed to harness the sun, the wind and water. When the south-facing, glazed façade is bathed in sunlight, inside it is cool. A borehole was sunk 70 feet to pipe cold water throughout the three levels. This groundwater pumped from the borehole as a cooling source is more efficient with a waveform construction of flooring, an organic form which provides interesting ceilings on the floor below. In winter, this water will be heated for underfloor heating, and piped into radiators. Mike Clift, project manager, admits that monitoring the success of this natural air-conditioning with airflow and temperature controls has just begun.

Any breeze is captured with cross-ventilation, a natural choice for the open-plan arrangements. The shallow office plan with fairly high glazed façades means that there is plenty of daylight indoors, and BMS-controlled windows on the third floor, with manually opened windows at lower levels, allow for cross-ventilation. Occupants can override the automatic control of all aspects of their environments; for the architects, this is "a most important issue for any building and one which a naturally ventilated building should address more effectively than a sealed box".

On the outside of the south-facing façade there are external motorised glass louvres and fan-assisted ventilation stacks, so on hot, still days fans inside will circulate the air through the offices. A small, thin film of silicone panels are photovoltaic, to store enough heat to light the building. In the summer the fire research unit was using this solar power to boil kettles for tea but these photovoltaic conditions are expected to generate 1,500 kilowatt-hours a year, enough to light the building. The new generation of compact low-energy fluorescents. T5, are more efficient than conventional fluorescent tubes and less environmentally damaging in manufacture. They are linked to presence detectors and to the BMS computer system, which switches off the lights when they are not needed.

It sounds like a building for the millennium, doesn't it? Let's hope it winters well.

Top jobs with tough responsibilities merit top salaries



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Few calculations are based on such pseudo-science and false analogy as those which produce the salaries of "top people". In the private sector, remuneration committees sit around pretending to be objective when in fact they are working on hunches, the going rate and vague intuitions about individuals and returns. In the public sector, the work is farmed out to committees of the Great and Good who try, usually in vain, to find someone whose job really compares with that of an army general or the Cabinet Secretary. But lack of rigorous principle is not the same as the absence of a strong case for paying those in senior positions well. Like the Prime Minister. His is an incomparable job. for which £140,000 a year by no means sounds too much but £90,000 certainly sounds too little.

The pay system bequeathed to Labour by its Tory predecessors this week produced new numbers for the Prime Minister and Cabinet colleagues. The

resulting salaries are reasonable. For the Home Secretary to receive £120,000 or so a year is fitting. It is a demanding job, carries physical risks and may only last a matter of months. Those points apply even more strongly to the premiership. In an ideal world, we might wish there to be tighter definitions of ministers' jobs. making clear just where their responsibilities end and those of the managers they employ in the public services begin. But such fuzziness is no excuse for meanness.

Cabinet ministers deserve the money even when nurses and doctors and teachers are being kept to increases at or around the rate of inflation. Through a mixture of parliamentary pusillanimity and Conservative cowardice, ministerial pay is now depressed. There is a good case for a one-off upwards adjustment of Cabinet salaries which need not have any ramifications for those working in schools

or hospitals or collecting refuse. One of the best legacies of the Conservative era was the conviction that pay has to follow performance. If the phrase "pay policy" is to mean anything at all, it must no longer be the doctrine of the annual round where everyone gets some inflation plus increment plucked out of the air by trade union leaders; instead it must be based on schemes which seek to reward those who perform their jobs well and increase the public product as a result. Even nurses are not all star performers; their pay must also recognise individual merit as well as local circumstances of recruitment.

Frightened of confrontation with a branch of trade unionism which the industrial relations revolution of the Eighties seems to have passed by, governments in the past have usually chosen not to deliverthis message to public employees directly, preferring to hide behind pay review bodies. These are merely a deception, for a reason graphically illustrated yesterday. The Government made it plain before the election that its spending plans for the next two years are those fixed by Kenneth Clarke last November. Those plans envisage an increase in aggregate public sector pay of little more than inflation.

Alistair Darling - a minister, incidentally, emerging as one of this administration's brighter lights - repeated this fiscal fact yesterday, directing his voice towards the pay review bodies. How dare he, storined Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association — "The review body should do [its job] quite unfettered by affordability." That is the authentic voice of the Seventies, the decade which brought us discontented winters and the mentality which says public services are not for the benefit of the public but for those who provide them.

Tony Blair is wrong to have foregone a rise in prime ministerial salary, but sometimes political circumstances are too strong to resist - and this was such an occasion. Given Cherie Booth's professional success, it is hard to see the Blair household missing the odd £10,000 (however unfair that observation, it would get made). Mr Blair's next move, to urge his Cabinet colleagues to take their rise, was correct. They now merely look like sheep.

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Those mistakes made, the Government needs more than ever to reaffirm its public sector pay policy for 1997-98. It is this. Spending plans do allow some small rise in aggregate pay. That, however, must first be used to meet the Government's stated priority, which is the rescue and rehabilitation of the education service. A key instrument is differential reward, allowing, for example, good teachers to stay in the classroom, well paid and not sucked into administration and pastoral work which, however important, have to remain secondary to lively teaching. David Blunkett's authority to push that policy would in no way have been diminished by his accepting an amount nearer the proper pay for a minister of his standing.

LETTERS

Efficient recycling

Sir: Ray Palin, director of the Energy from Waste Association is right to point out (Letters, 17 September) the overriding need to reduce waste, but wrong to champion the waste incineration option. Incinerators are complex technology. They cost millions to set up and so the operators require very long waste supply contracts (25-30 years) to justify the huge outlay. Moreover, Coopers & Lybrand's recent report to the EC found that incineration creates less employment than recycling, requires more transport (generating extra carbon dioxide), and undermines recycling.

Germany is some years ahead of Britain in recycling waste - their problems today could be our problems in five years. They are now recycling efficiently to such an extent that their waste volumes have decreased by 16 per cent in the three years after 1990.

To prevent their expensive incinerators lying idle they are now forced to import waste from as far away as Brazil to keep their incinerators operating. Landfill sites are still required for the remnant toxic incinerator ash.

Meanwhile, here in the UK, a report in the current issue of The Ecologist highlights the poor safety performance of some British municipal incinerators as well as the dangers to health associated with the dioxins produced by the incineration process. On economic, environmental and health grounds, incineration - even when opportunistically renamed "energy from waste" - is not a viable option. We should seek instead to drastically reduce waste, promote recycling and reuse, while developing small and safe composting and anaerobic digestion systems.

Dr DAVID CROMWELL Southampton, Hampshire

Sir: We welcome Polly Toynbee's support for recycling (15 September) but take issue with her opinion of "price-fixing glass makers" who "in their greed to pay the lowest possible prices in the short term are throttling recycling schemes at birth".

The glass industry has been committed to recycling for over 20 years and has invested over £11m in the national bottle bank network. This yields over



recycled glass every year. Glass accounts for over 70 per cent of all recycled domestic packaging in the UK and the bottle bank system here, and in Europe, has been proven to be far the most efficient and least costly way of collecting used glass containers.

The green plastic box which prompted Ms Toynbee's article represents a vastly more expensive way of collecting waste. Furthermore the doorstep method is in its infancy and will have to develop massively before it can collect the volumes of recycled packaging that are needed to meet Government goals. The glass industry is committed to increasing the amount of glass collected via bottle banks and is working to organise the funding of new bottle bank sites and equipment.

BILL COOK Director General Sir: Polly Toynbee's assertion that recycling can be a viable and profitable initiative makes good sense, especially given her acknowledgement that using recycled newsprint is cheap-

Why is it, then, that recycled paper is so much more expensive to buy in the shops? Are the manufacturers cashing in on those of us with an environmental conscience? NIGEL GOODWIN

University of Nottingham

Ford dispute

Sir. Those who have been following coverage in The Independent of the recognition dispute at Ford of Dagenham. occasioned by some 300 drivers in the truck fleet transferring from the Transport & General Workers Union to URTU, may be forgiven for thinking that

racism is the root cause.

between 40 and 50 per cent, the proportion in the truck fleet is er than using new wood pulp.

In an article by Barrie

Clement (11 September) you reported: "While the proportion of ethnic minority workers in the main factories at Dagenham is

around 2 per cent". The statistics are used to infer that the disparity is virtual proof of racial discrimination. whereas the low percentage of ethnic minority drivers simply reflects the proportion of ethnic minority drivers found in the LGV driver population of the

UK as a whole. Your report also signally failed to mention that the TUC Disputes Committee completely cleared URTU of any suggestion of racism, just as it also cleared them of having directly recruited TGWU members. **DOUGLAS CURTIS**

Head of Campaigns and Communications The United Road Transport

lewish faith

Sir: Your article about the hatred and violence directed against Reform Jews in Israel by their ultra-Orthodox coreligionists (13 September) will have disturbed and saddened many of your readers, Jew and non-Jew alike.

It is hardly surprising that many secular Jerusalemites are seeking to escape the intolerance of the Orthodox by leaving the city to find homes in areas where they can live as they

. The burning of the kindergarten in Mevasseret Zion is, however, rooted in a different problem. It stems from the refusal of the Orthodox to accept the principle of pluralism in Israel, as indeed they refuse to accept it in the Jewish community in the United Kingdom.

Progressive Jews in Israel and elsewhere are not "secular" Jews, they are as deeply committed to their religion and its traditions as are the Orthodox; they simply choose to practise it in a way that synthesises an ancient faith with modernity. Rabbi Dr CHARLES H MIDDLEBURGH Director Designate

Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues London W1

Night flight noise

Sir: I am astonished at the finding of BAA's "expert" (report, 15 September) that people's sleep is not affected by night flights into Heathrow.

I live in Herne Hill, London, some 16 miles from Heathrow. My household is almost daily awoken by aircraft on their way to Heathrow around 6am, already flying so low that the aircraft numbers can often be identified. The volume of traffic has already become a real

Terminal 5 should not be built. Heathrow is a mess as it is; it is a horrible airport to use. If the majority of flight users are on transfers, then these could be accomplished at an airport well away from the centre of population in London. GRAHAM FEAKINS

Welsh spoken here

London SE24

Sir: Judith Judd states ("Learning Weish can help with your maths", 13 September) that Welsh is "a language which, not long ago, was spoken mainly by poets and peasants".

Welsh is spoken by 80 per cent of the population of the old county of Gwynedd and 60 per cent of Clwyd. They have not learnt it overnight, so to which category does your correspondent believe they belong? STEVE BARBER Beeston, Nottinghamshire

> : in 10,441

Greenham hijacked

Sir. Both Julian Lewis (Letters, 16 September) and the Greenham women seem to have missed the point of the ceremony to take down a part of the fence around Greenham Common last weekend.

Whether you agree with the Greenham women that their protests ended the Cold War or with Mr Lewis that deployment of nuclear forces was the cause, or indeed with many others that the real reason was the triumph of capitalism over Communism as an economic system, the removal of nuclear weapons from Greenham happened many years ago and was not relevant to the weekend's ceremony.

Instead, what we were doing was celebrating the success of Newbury District Council in achieving a transfer of the Greenham and Crookham Commons into their ownership. The negotiations were carried out between the new Greenham Common Trust, the district council and the Ministry of Defence. The Greenham vomen played no part in these negotiations and the Government was the main cause of the

negotiations being so prolonged. It is a sad reflection of the desperate need for good publicity of both the protesters and the Conservative Party that both should have tried to hijack what was really a people's triumph achieved through their local council.

DAVID RENDEL MP (Lib Dem, Newbury) House of Commons London SWI

'Independent' views Sir: Don't like it. Full marks to you for being innovative. But you've gone in entirely the wrong direction. Too magaziney. KEITH HUDSON

Sir: Warm congratulations on the new look Independent, admirable in form and content. May it go from strength to strength.

ANNE SERRAILLIER Chichester, Sussex Sir: The Independent has changed ... but I still have black

hands by the time I have read it. J RAVENSCROFT London NII

In which the brains of British quizmasters are even more challenged



I seem to have started quite a hare running when I wondered out loud if anyone apart from me had ever noticed TV and radio quizmasters getting things wrong. Readers sent me enough samples of mistakes perpetrated by the smug brotherhood of quiz chairmen to fill a whole column yesterday and, blow me down, there is enough in the post this morning to do it again. I cannot resist the temptation.

A card, first, from John Handford of Gosport, who says he once heard Henry Kelly on Going for Gold ask a man from Hamburg: "From what language does the expression Zeitgeist come?". Unfortunately, he pronounced the expression as "Zeetgeest" and the poor tant's tongue-tied dithering.

German was none the wiser. Margaret Thompson of Chessington reports that 10 years ago on Radio 4's Brain of Britain she heard an embarrassed female contestant being asked by a male quizmaster: "Where in the human body do you find the perineum?"

Now, even I knew this one. The perineum is that small blank space situated between the anal back area and the genital front area. I always think of it as the one part of the body which, when you are having a shower, is sure to retain quantities of soapy foam after you thought you had rinsed it all off, but apparently it also comes into play during childbirth. which explained the contes-

"Sorry," said the quizmaster, "but I must give the answer. It's the membrane in the abdomen that covers the intestines." Nothing of the sort, says

Margaret Thompson - that's

the peritoneum.

Strensall, Yorkshire

Raymond Cook of no fixed abode (ie, via e-mail) insists that he recently heard Jeremy Paxman on University Challenge ascribe the authorship of "A Shropshire Lad" to John Betjeman, instead of the rather more correct AE Housman, and that none of the contestants was knowledgeable enough to contradict him. In a later programme contestants were asked to identify a quotation about architecture, and when someone suggested John Betjeman, Pax-

man snapped: "He was a poet,

not an architect!" Well, as Mr the rest of the session, so that cellent slow ballad, and wrote Cook suggests, if you think Betjeman wrote "A Shropshire Lad", you probably aren't too aware of Betjeman's frequent

writings on architecture. Paul Barnett, from somewhere else in e-mail country, says he heard a contestant on Brain of Britain give a perfectly correct answer and have it smugly dismissed by Robert Robinson as wrong. At the end of the programme the continuity person announced that in fact the contestant's answer had been right, but that it hadn't affected the outcome.

"Actually," says Paul Barnett, "I thought it bloody well might have. If I'd been that man, my mind would have been a-churn with confusion and/or fury for thought it would make an ex- lightest literally (ie, 'least mas-

I would forget all sorts of things I would normally remember."

Sebastian Robinson of Glasgow has a wonderfully esoteric example of an error by the same chairman on the same programme. "Robert Robinson." he says, "began by announcing: The words of this popular song were written by Mitchell Parish. Who wrote the music?" He then played the introductory verse to 'Stardust'. None of the contestants having been able to answer, he then said, 'Hoagy Carmichael' - which, as you will know, is wrong. Carmichael wrote and published the chorus

of 'Stardust' as a medium-fast

number in about 1928; about

three years later Mitchell Parish

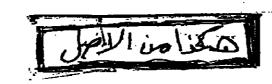
not only the words but the music of the verse, as played by R Robinson. This must be one of those rare occasions when a quizmaster, having given his victims the right answer, asked them for the wrong one."

And finally a letter from Mr Walter of Westcliff-on-Sea, who was actually a victim of error himself, on Television Brain of Britain, a precursor of Master mind in the late Sixties.

"The question (put not to me but to another contestant called Marshbanks) was: 'Which is the lightest planet?' It will be apparent to you, as it was to Mr Marshbanks and myself, that this is slightly ambiguous. Should we understand

sive') in which case the answer is Mercury, or loosely ('least dense') in which case it is Saturn? Marshbanks played sage and asked: 'Do you really mean lightest?' He was told 'yes', and said correctly Mercury and you can guess the rest. Marshbanks would have let it go but I protested and demanded that he be given the point."

Mr Walter himself was later asked to form the letter H in semaphore which he did correctly, only to be told it was wrong. Walter insisted he was right. The voice of the producer was heard backstage: "He's right, you know!" The error was not broadcast, and the programme was dropped after one series. I was not, says Mr Walter, altogether surprised.





Why my blow for women was bad for the poor



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TOYNBEE ON TAX AND MARRIAGE

If you really want to think the unthinkable, then sometimes you have to admit you were wrong. I admit it. When I campaigned for separate taxation for women, I was wrong. (But more of that later on).

Gordon Brown is looking for a big idea. In search of one, he put Martin Taylor of Barclays Bank in charge of a tax and benefit task force. Its ambitious remit is to streamline the system, to increase work incentives, reduce poverty and strengthen community and family life. The dream is to find a way of integrating tax and benefits, creating a smooth transition from one to the other, ironing out work disincentives and social stig-

It is, however, a fiendish conundrum, a Holy Grail (or maybe fool's gold) that has eluded many sharp Tory brains who had almost precisely the same intentions. There they go again, rediscovering the same old see-saw, every bright idea balanced by an equally heavy downside.

In his budget speech the Chancellor seized hold of an American scheme called Earned Income Tax Credits. He ordered the task force to consider it and he has been plugging it ever since. Now many fear that he may push it through because it sounds good, despite its many drawbacks.

The idea is to build work incentives into the income tax system. Currently Family Credit is the work-incentive benefit: it tops up low pay, ensuring it's always worthwhile to work, even in a low-paid job. Brown's idea is to transfer that into the tax system, calling it a "tax credit" to make it more socially acceptable to claim.

But, amid growing alarm at Brown's enthusiasm, the notion is getting an emphatic . and taxing Child Benefit - for could double thumbs-down from all the experts. It would Child Benefit. I have always been against inbring a huge administrative upheaval for very little good effect: there is little evidence of social stigma against claiming Family Credit, since its take-up is now more than 80 per

Turning the benefit into a tax credit would have deep drawbacks. Instead of the benefit being paid out in the usual way, employers would have to operate the scheme, hugely adding to the complexity of PAYE, Employees wanting to claim would have to give to their bosses details of their lives, partners, children and savings - hardly a popular move. Employers would have to assess the information, pass it on, and then hand over the extra cash, instead of just collecting the tax in the usual way - tough on their time and their

cash flow It would risk making employers keenly aware of how to take unfair advantage of Family Credit, by paying low wages and hiring only staff who qualified for the benefit. At the moment, employers are largely ignorant of it, because it does not pass through their hands. Worst of all, Family Credit would be transferred into the hus-

band's pay packet, and no longer be paid to the wife. Yet the research suggests that more money is spent on children when paid to the mother, not the father.

Tax credit is an idea whose time has come - and gone - in the space of a few short months. But the Taylor committee will still need a big idea, because Gordon Brown needs a big idea. Here, then, is a big one, but it really does mean thinking the unthinkable. It means thinking again about women and men in the tax and benefits system.

First, I will admit that I and a large number of women who campaigned for separate taxation for husbands and wives were wrong. Introduced in 1990, this feminist move gave married women separate taxation and a separate tax allowance for the first time. But it boosted the earnings of better-off couples and widened the gap between twoearner families and the rest. Now it is time to think again.

A growing number of experts, including some Brown advisers, are saying that taxing couples independently was a seriously retrograde step. It gave well-off, dual-earner couples £1,000 extra, costing the state some £2bn a year. And yet, though many wives work, they continue to be regarded as "dependants" in the old-fashioned way which entitles husbands to the Married Couples Allowance of another £250 a year; that costs the nation another £2.5bn.

Women campaigned for separate taxation not out of greed, but as a protest at the indignity of the previous system. The husband filled out the family tax form in his own name, demanding to know every penny his wife earned or saved, without the wife necessarily having access to the same information about her husband's money. But if couples were jointly taxed again they should sign the form jointly, with transparency on both sides. After all, poor couples on social security have never had independent rights. They are assessed jointly - though this new deal should include allowing women to draw their own benefits and their children's separately, instead of their husband collecting

Joint taxation (for those who cohabit, as well as for the married) would mean that for the first time it would become worth taxing Child Benefit. If you tried it now, it would hit too small a number of high-earning mothers to be worth it.

So if you took all the money collected from these three measures - joint taxation, abolishing the Married Couples Allowance creasing Child Benefit, as too much is wasted on women like me, who don't need it. But that objection fails, once you can tax it effectively. Then Child Benefit becomes the best way to get parents off social security and into work, as it creates no poverty trap. It also gives women everywhere more money in their hands to feed their children in a crisis.

This would be a redistributive act, taking from well-off couples and giving to poorer families with children, mainly taking from men and giving to women. But it would be a great deal more popular than using the income tax system. Those men who lost out would no doubt feel hard done by. But their complaints would be drowned out by all the delighted mothers who would get twice as much Child Benefit in their hands each week.

Would there be a great feminist outcry at returning to joint taxation? I think not, if that were the quid pro quo. Child Benefit is immensely popular, even with men. Now there is a big idea that hits every single one of the Taylor task force's targets. Forget fiddling about with tax credits, and go for doubling Child Benefit.



Birt's brutalism will bastardise our broadcasting culture for ever



JOHN TUSA ON TURMOIL AT THE BBC

It was an audibly distressed senior BBC editor on the phone. "Have you heard about the changes?" he asked. I said I worthwhile - indeed essential had. Could he come and talk - setting out what the consethings over? Of course, but why? "It destroys everything in for listeners and viewers. They broadcasting that I believe in are not small; they are serious; It is appalling." He is not alone they will be long lasting. in feeling as he does. Sounds of First, a word about Birt distress and anger have been exupting from the belly of the BBC whale in the past 48 hours. By all accounts, the roasting banded out by Today staff to the authors of the plan - Richard Clemmow and Stephen Mitchell - was blistering.

This is not run-of-the-mill journalist whingeing. The anxieties are professional and personal. They are about the entire tone and structure of the BBC, about the way it sees, reports and presents the world, and about the nature of the material it offers to viewers and listeners. They are not selfish amieties about jobs and careers though most of the former will change, many of the latter will disappear. They reflect deep concern about the service the BBC will provide under the new dispensation.

But whatever the rows internal and external, no one should have any illusions. The Birt Plan will not be derailed, overruled, or modified. The Government will not intervene; the Governors will not lift a finger or utter a word of reproof or concern. The authoritarian chairman, Christopher Bland, will bark at them in his usual manner and they will lie down as they always have done.

Staff, however despondent or outraged, will not resign, or only in very small numbers. It is a cold, competitive world outside the BBC and the prospect of being jobless and penniless within 14 days concentrates the mind and subdues the heroics wonderfully. But it is still quences of the upheaval will be

First, a word about Birt's tactics. They are those of the management shock troop. The comparisons with his 7 June putsch against the BBC World Service in 1996 are instructive. Now, as then, there was no prior consultation; he knew the resistance would be too big, the objections too weighty to permit them to be aired. Now, the timetable for implementation is even tighter than it was with last year's dismantling of autonomous BBC World Service programme making. For the biggest shake-up in BBC news broadcasting, the timetable for implementation is just two weeks. To call it dictatorial is wholly inadequate.

In 1996, neither the Deputy Director General, Bob Phillis, nor the Managing Director of the World Service, Sam Younger, were told of the changes affecting the World Service until 48 hours before they were announced. Bob Phillis has now belatedly parted company with Birt; but did he know of the changes before he left, or was he again left "out of the loop"?

The tragedy is that a once great organisation - one of the finest creations of the liberal mind, one dedicated to an open and humane dialogue with its listeners and viewers, one that could only carry out such a dialogue because it conducted it internally first - has been subjected to such brutalising socalled "managerialism".

For as long as anybody can remember, BBC networks were characterised by individual programmes. The prospect of running one such - whether Tonight, Newsnight, The World at One, Today or Punorama which a generation or more of Britain's best broadcast journalists threw themselves. Each of these programmes, and many more, became great because it was distinctive, independent, unorthodox and frequently unpopular with the BBC hierarchy. As one of those who started Newsnight in 1980. I can confidently state that it was the vision of its original editors that created the programme that is now a pillar of the schedules. It would not have been able to develop as it did had it been part of some homogenised view of what BBC current affairs was. It succeeded because it threw over those existing conventions.

Birt's response is that a special executive editor can effectively be responsible for "programme distinctiveness", as if that were a definable, marketable and deliverable commodity. Such an assumption il- nalist who recently resigned lustrates the depth of the chasm of incomprehension that underlies these proposals.

From now on, producers and broadcasters will not fight to the death to be first "for their programme". They will be told who comes first. They will need to get permission to be original. Listeners and viewers will lose variety, inspiration, and difference. The differences between radio and television news will wither. Television news stories will increasingly consist of - as they do now - the radio story with pictures; radio journalism will be reduced to the tv story in sound only. Both represent a bastard diminution of two great and once distinct

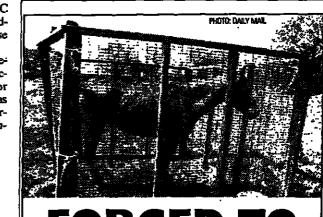
communication cultures. The days of internal competition between BBC programmes - once a critical was the supreme challenge into impredient in the BBC's success - will be gone. The Birtites insist on the internal market for resources; but at the same time they are killing the internal market in competition for ideas and excellence. But that is no accident. Ideas cost money; you have to pay the people who have them. Ideas cannot be tidied into neat business plans. Birt's answer is to destroy the structures that created ideas the programmes and the journalists behind them.

> Much of this is happening already. A very senior TV jour

from the BBC told me that he did so in despair at the fact that whereas he had once been an active creative journalist, all his editors wanted now was for him to sit in his expensive foreign bureau and comment on what the news agencies wrote. The result is inevitable and wholly predictable; BBC journalism will be turned from a craft, an essential part of a nation's dialogue, into a marketable commodity.

But there is a further aspect to the transformation. If the whole historic concept of the "programme" as the core of BBC broadcasting has gone, its replacement will be the network - the unified, homogenised delivery of a single commodity. whether sport, or films or news. The BBC's contribution to world broadcasting was the idea and the execution of the individual "programme". That is now being thrown away.

No one should be surprised. A year ago, some of us warned that the Birt putsch would destroy World Service journalism. Despite protestations to the contrary, the Birtites have closed the repository of World Service excellence - the news reference library, and now give priority in breaking news stories to every outlet, including Radio Five Live, over World Service news. These people mean what they say. And what they say is awful.



FORCED TO SUFFER IN A CAGED HELI

This poor, suffering creature is one of twelve neglected horses recently discovered in Cheshire. Its coat infested with lice and its ribs clearly visible, the horse was left to starve in this small cage. Many of the others were in far worse condition - one sadly died on the day we were called.

ILPH field officer Paul

Teasdale, despite thirty years

experience with horses, was

the horses to the nearest ILPH rehabilitation centre. where our staff are now working to save them.

Cruelty to horses is still too charity, we need your support to help end the suffering.

Please help us to continue our work by returning the donation. Thank you.

shocked by what he saw. I WANT TO HELP STOP CRUELTY TO HORSES I enclose a donation of | f to support your work I would like more information about your work and how I can become a supporter. INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR Anne Colvin House TIPH PROTECTION OF HORSES Spenierton, Norfolk, NR16 21.R.

Sweet pictures of puppies and cats – it must be the lovable Unionists

JOHN WALSH



A magazine lands on my desk with a soggy thud and a picture of a fat, snoozing baby, swaddled in terry-towelling, on the front, "Let's Keep the Peace for Their Tomorrow", suggests a headline. Flicking through it, you're pulled up again and again by the lovely lovely photographs and their encouraging

captions. Here, for example, under a sweet photo of a small grey cat biting the nose of a perfectly adorable little golden retriever puppy, it says "Reconciliation is possible". A snap of a young family walking along a beach together is captioned, "We must move forward together", and you mutter to yourself, Mmm, that is so true. Under a ... But I'm afraid I really can't stand any more of this emetic sentimentalism, this glutinous guff. What is this magazine? Pucifists Monthly? The Watchtower? Some tract from an unusally wet order of elderly contemplative nuns keen on the propagation of world peace?

No it isn't. This, dear reader, is The Unionist, "the magazine of the Unionist Information Office", its pages full of gung-ho pieces from David Trimble and various lobbyists about the peace settlement, couched in the same emollient language ("Many people sense this opportunity. They sense that we can move forward positively ..."), going on about the importance of playing a full part in the peace Can these be the same

Unionists who have hovered so tantalisingly on the threshold of the peace talks for so many weeks now? But then, you surmise, maybe this magazine is different. Maybe it represents a different, a nicer, a more conciliatory face of Unionism. Now then, who runs it? Why, one David Burnside. Not, surely, the flint-eyed PR man formetly with the Institute of Directors and latterly with British Airways, at the time of the controversial campaign against Virgin Airlines? Well, well. And what, I wonder, are the "dreams" he "dares to dream" about, say, Martin McGuinness? Or would they be rather hard to photograph?

It was a red-letter day for onanists everywhere. In bedrooms across the continent of Europe, chronic self-abusers of every shape and hue gave themselves a big hand. The J Arthur Rank Society (motto: "We do

give a toss") organised a celebratory dinner. Crowds of partially-sighted auto-erotic bachelors joyfully descended on WH Smith and John Menzies, guiltlessly stripping the shelves of Hustler and Cop This, Big Boy magazines. Could it be true? After all the years of shame and deceit and, er, underhand dealings, the unbelievable had indeed happened. The Pope had gone and decriminalised masturbation. La Stampa said he had "par-

doned" it, the Corriere della Sera said he'd "almost absolved" it -almost, in fact, coming round to the Woody Allen view of the enterprise: "Don't knock masturbation," he used to say. "It's having sex with someone you really love." What they were going on is

a new form of words in the revised Catechism - the massive new rule-book which tells young Papists what they're sunposed to believe. Those more densely mired in the swamp of Catholic doctrine than I am any more, tell me that all this is a misunderstanding of the papal corrigendum and that, in fact, Il Papa has become more. rather than less, disapproving of the solitary act. But the very mention of the subject pitches mour ran around the crowd that

me back down a ladder of Jimi Hendrix's father and sisyears to the time when we were devout and pious and believed in the total package of sin and conscience and obedience and the lurking chasm of hell. Being a young Catholic meant, as Kate Saunders has so eloquently put it, you were always one shag away from eternal perdition. If the chances of having sex with someone else were a little remote, as they tend to be in hothouse Catholic communities, they still got you: masturbation was deemed a mortal sin, just like murder and Invading a Neutral Country. How, in those days, we would have welcomed a little papal

I went down to Brook Street, Mayfair, on Sunday to see the unveiling of a blue plaque in honour of Jimi Hendrix, the great guitarist who died of a vomitrelated condition 30 years ago. The azure platter outside No 23 was uncurtained by Pete Townshend of The Who, Jimi's old bassist Noel Redding made a speech and crowds of photographers snapped away at lots of people in purple-haze velvet, crimson cravats and fuchsia bell-bottoms. And then a ru-

ter had flown over from Seattle and were on the pavement across the road. Consternation. The crowd surged over to where Al Hendrix stood, in white Jimi Hen-

drix T-shirt and green Jimi

Hendrix cap alongside Jani, a very calm-looking piece of work with raven hair. The crowd proffered pieces of paper for autographs, clutched their elbows and told them what Jimi's music had meant to them. Unable to express their love for the main figure, they focused their love on the next of kin. It was all so Prince Harry and Prince William. Later, an assembly of rock journalists compared notes: how Jani isn't a sister, or even half-sister, only Al's adopted daughter; how her fondness for merchandising Jimi products (even golfing wear, though the great man was a stranger to the putting green) has alienated friends and fans alike; how they hadn't originally been invited to the opening, or had been, but originally said no ... There it was - after the pub-

lic mourning and the expressions of sympathy to the bereaved there came the Family Row. Jimi Hendrix - rock

Koi Nagata

Gunji (Koi) Nagata, Japanese born Kakogawa City, Hyogo Prefecture, japan 1900; died Neyagawa, Osaica, Japan 25 August 1997.

At the age of 95, the celebrated haiku poet Koi Nagata lost his house in the earthquake that devastated Kobe. But he did not lose his life. "Just two minutes before the quake struck at 5.46, I had gone to the toilet, a solid, brick-built refuge that preserved me, like a miracle, when the house collapsed.

"I tried to attract attention by banging the washbasin with a vuzumashi (a copper teaceremony utensil). It was quite fun, banging away like that -kankara kan! kankara kan! It sounded like a Buddhist chant - Namurvohorengekkvo - and I was rescued by a delivery boy from the sake shop next door."

The number of people writing haiku in Japan was said to be 10 million. But those numbers are now decreasing rapidh: haiku writers are growing old and dving, and the young now are for the most part more interested in material things than in the evanescent and difficult art of haiku. So Nagata's passing is being regarded as being

the "haiku boom" of the last few decades. There are still some ancient haifin, some of them over a hundred years old, but they are no longer practising. Koi Nagata was the oldest poet in activity.

He started writing haiku at the age of 17, but, 80 years later, he said he was still learning: "I never tired of composing haiku, and my work is still not finished. I always feel I have further to go, taking the middle path in life, which allows me to go on burning myself out with poetic energy. Nagata had lifelong em-

ployment at Mitsubishi's Takasago Paper Factory. Before the Second World War, he had belonged to the same haiku group as Hakyo Ishida, known for its poetic research into humanitarian themes. After the war, he joined for a while the Tenro (Sirius) group around the influential poet and critic Seishi Yamaguchi.

But in 1949 he started his own group, with the magazine Rila-za ("Lyra"). Founding his practice on zen thought, he wrestled with the themes of space, religion, philosophy, and established his own unique haiku style, distinguished by its sense of life's all-pervading loneliness, and the desolation symbolic of the rapid decline in of man's fatal decay. His

favourite Western poet was W.B. Yeats, whose short poem "After Long Silence" gave him his motto: "Bodily decrepitude is wisdom . . . '

He learned from the great medieval noh dramatist Zeami to appreciate the beauty of decay. Zeami said: "What is interesting is that the flower becomes withered." Nagata said: "That sort of beauty in decline is more interesting to me, because there is energy in that decline. I always have a longing to witness the death of the flowers and plants before my very eyes. Most people try to see flowers blooming in their prime, but I desire to see them

at their end." So his very personal and sometimes obscure style, like no other, is linked to the imagery of decrepitude, loneliness, the frailty of natural things. His aim was to transcend despair by creating vital haiku whose energies sprang from the depths of the poet's solitude.

After the earthquake, he criticised the general lowering of haiki standards: "Most people are content with learning technique, but they are like children splashing around in shallow water. It makes me sad that in general haiku people are so superficial, without zen, without philosophical backbone" -

a view shared by our own great haiku scholar R.H. Blyth, but not by most of the British haiku

Nagata detested the power struggles that go on in the ranks of haiku groups, and always disassociated himself from such intrigues. "Power, fame, riches, a comfortable life are all far removed from the true way of haiku. I admire Basho's haiku because he upholds the principles of detachment from human desires, and respect for the life of the spirit."

After the Kobe earthquake, Nagata wrote a collection about that experience, Jijin, which includes this typical "haiku of the beauty of decay":

The withered grasses - without a house to live in, my life burns botter.

He added: "I have come to understand loneliness from the bottom of my heart." And: "When you really become familiar with loneliness, it becomes its opposite, and is filled with gaiety." He quoted the last lines from Yeats's great poem "From Oedipus at Colonus": Never to have lived is best, ancient

writers say;
Never to have drawn the breath of life, never to have looked into the eye of the day;
The second best's a gay goodnight and quickly turn away



Nagata: at 97 the oldest active haiku poet. 'My work is still not finished,' he said. I always feel I have further to go'

Whitecliff Bay, was distin-

guished by John Garnett telling

successive generations the sto-

ries of Captain Scott's Last

Expedition and of the short life

At his retirement party, or-

of the Titanic.

John Garnett

William John Poulton Maxwell Garnett, industrial campaigner: born London 6 August 1921; Director, industrial Society 1962-86; CBE 1970; married 1943 Barbara Rutherford-Smith (three sons, one daughter: marriage dissolved 1985), 1986 Julia Cleverdon (two daughters); died Paros, Greece 14 August 1997.

John Garnett changed the way a whole generation thought about work. His experiences in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and later working as a clerk and then personnel manager at ICI (1947-62) convinced him that the away armed with their own challenge at work was not to protect people from exploitation but to give them the opportunity to make use of their talents. People long to give but so often organisations make no use of their gifts.

Taking over as director of a largely moribund Industrial Welfare Association in 1962, Garnett changed its name to the Industrial Society and made it the leading influence in Britain in man management through courses, conferences, but above all through his speeches.

He was an inspiring speaker with his shock of white hair, his illegible notes clutched in his hand, pouring energy into his audience. Each point was hammered home with stories and examples. He claimed his technique was learnt keeping old ladies awake at League of Nations rallies.

In hundreds of speeches over 30 years, John Garnett spoke to thousands of managers and supervisors in all sorts of organisations and sent them personal action points, determined to change the way they managed and put some of that inspiration into their workplace. His three principal messages were the importance of effective first-line leadership; the simple skill of team briefing to galvanise the whole organisation; and the need for vision to inspire people at work.

His book The Work Challenge, first published in 1973, set out what needed to be done by leaders to help people put more into and get more out of their work at a time of changing technology and changing attitudes to life. He was proudest, however, of the plastic card of 10 points for leadership action.

William John Poulton Maxwell Garnett, to give him his full name, carried forward the missionary work as well as the names of his father and grandfathers. His grandfather William Garnett had worked with Sidney and Beatrice Webb to achieve extraordinary success in bringing educational order to London. His father, Maxwell Garnett, moved from being Principal of Manchester's Col-League of Nations Union, establishing branches and undergraduate groups throughout the country.

William Garnett also built a holiday home at Horestone Point, Seagrove Bay, near Seaview on the Isle of Wight. Sir Edward Poulton, the Oxford zoologist, had a family home two miles south, at St Helens. John Garnett's parents, Maxwell Garnett and Margaret Poulton, met, he said, playing beach hockey on the sand of Priory Bay between their parents' homes. After marriage they bought part of a field above the bay to build their own home. John Garnett later gave

coastal land including Hore-

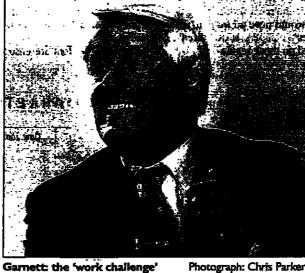
stone Point to the National Trust. scouts. His uncles were the hounds at his heels for much of his life, and responsible for the tremendous drive to achieve lege of Technology to the and change the world. When asked to volunteer for secret work in the Second World War, he knew he could not face his first as lieutenant in an amazing nautical undercover taxi serbetween Cornwall and occupied

ing and the Isle of Wight, although in later years he also took holidays in the Greek islands where he died. The family gatherings and holidays on the Isle of Wight are known fortheir size. Beach hockey at low tide with 20 each side might be followed by 50 in St Helens

The Great War culled John Garnett's uncles including the England rugby captain Ronald Poulton-Palmer, the oarsman Kenneth Garnett, and Stuart Garnett, who founded the sea mother if he refused. He served vice, taking spies and supplies

Garnett loved the sea, sail-

ganised by his second wife, Julia Cleverdon, now Director of Business in the Community, Church. The annual walk to thousands from industry and



Photograph: Chris Parker

Hall in teams of 10. Each team involved managers with trade unionists and young people for a day of involvement with company chairmen and trade union leaders whose careers had

grown alongside John Gamett. On leaving the Industrial Society in 1986, Garnett served as Chairman of West Lambeth Health Authority (1986-90). fighting the waves of despondency in a changing Health Service and pulling St Thomas

Hospital in London back from the brink of closure. He never really retired, believing that you should run the last lan fastest of all. He poured his energy into his younger James's, his local church, building a new church hall and shelsingle-parent families. He had of the United Nations Association, 1954-56, and chaired the Churches Council on Gambling, from 1965 to 1971.

Garnett led by example, walking the job, listening and speaking to people at all levels in the organisation with the same passion and care that he poured out in his speeches. At Lambeth Health Authority, appalled by the litter in the corridors, he set himself the task of picking up 10 pieces of litter on his way in and 10 on his way out. His greatest joy was seeing a consultant do

likewise. For his 75th birthday last year, 75 of the family put on a performance in full costume of HMS Pinafore in a Greek amphitheatre he had built, like his beloved Stone House in the Isle

of Wight, by hand alone. daughters' school parent. John Garnett's strength association, the New River came from a real love of peo-Walk in Islington, and St ple, and the joys of setting them alight and his belief in Christ's call to serve God and tered accommodation for his fellow man. His sense of humour - and a strong sense of earlier been Deputy Chairman his own failings - kept him approachable and fun, a very practical idealist.

- Rupert Middleton and Peter Bottomley

Lowe: propagandist for postal history

Robson Lowe

collector and dealer: born 7 January 1905; married (two daughters); died 19 August 1997.

Robson Lowe was the towering giant in the world of stamp collecting or philately. A stamp dealer, auctioneer, writer. editor, publisher and organiser, he has left an enormous amount of literature on all aspects of philately.

"Robbie", according to his own story, started stamp dealing as a schoolboy when he was 15 years old, in 1920. He was determined to establish a career in stamp dealing and first applied for a job with the London stamp dealers Fox & Co, in South Kensington, but was not accepted due to his outspoken

comment that he was only working to learn how to become successful himself. Funded by his parents, he started a business which grew until its name became renowned world-wide. Initially it was called the Regent Stamp Co, with a subsidiary, Robson Lowe Ltd (1926), which became arguably the leading stamp auction house in the UK and was taken over by Christie's in 1980.

His auction house became famous and he handled many of the great collections, primarily through personal contacts established through his standing as a philatelist. Collectors of today owe much to him through his marketing the archives of the stamp printing companies of De La Rue. Bradbury Wilkinsons, and Waterlows, and selling these publicly and privately, spreading the sales over a period so that the market could absorb this tremendous original artwork, proofs and essays of the stamps of so many countries.

From a humble beginning, Robson Lowe became one of the great entrepreneurs. By 1934 he was successful enough to launch his own magazine, the Raconteur, which became the Philatelist in 1937 and is still published today. Promotion of the hobby, and hence himself, through the written word was his particular strength.

By 1948 he had published his first major book, Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680-1900, which introduced the field of postal history - the study of routes, rates and postal markings of the mail - to the philatelic world as a serious col-

1990, this was followed by his six volumes of Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps. which became the authoritative points of reference for the stamps and postal history of Great Britain and the Empire.

Such books not only were learned, they were also propagandist in their promotion of postal history, an aspect of collecting which he established as a most important part of philately. His belief in the subject led him to introduce the first Postal History auction sales: they have now been copied by hundreds of auction houses across the world.

In the 1970s he gained yet another landmark in the development of postal history by persuading the Corsini family to sell their letter archive. This

was first published, 1851; the Irish

source of early postal history and did cause problems as the letters, and the associated private postal markings, were written in antique Italian. Not to be defeated, Lowe taught himself the language, and translated many of the historical letters. Indeed, he became so proficient that he lectured learned

societies on the subject in Italy. Whilst an extremely successful businessman, be also contributed much in the promotion of the hobby, and assistance to others not so fortunate. Unable for health reasons to serve in the Second World War, he created in Bournemouth the 1940 Stamp Exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp. Linked to this, he organised

lecting field. Between 1948 and material was the first major many events, including an auction, to support the Red Cross in its war efforts. His talent for organising stamp exhibitions led to his being the Organising Secretary of the 1960 London International Exhibition on the South Bank and the early British Philatelic Exhibitions at the Seymour Hall.

Lowe received many philatelic honours. He was the first "stamp professional" who was invited to become an Honorary Member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. In recognition of his contributions to newer aspects of philatelic collecting he was made Honorary President of the Cinderella Stamp Club in 1983, and of the Revenue Society of Great Britain on its formation in 1989.

– Francis Kiddle

BIRTHS

GREN: On 13 September in Oslo, to Bent (nee Stokke) and Charles, a son William Ole, a brother for Jim and

MARRIAGES

DEAN FARRIMOND: Cherie and Michael were married vestenday in Halifax. They will like in Sowerby Bridge with Nathaniel and Belarus at Lovevdore Cottage. Blimey.

DEATHS

NORRIS: James Thomas (Tom), on 12 September 1997 in a tragic swimming accident, aged 37, son of Norman and Anne, brother to Anne-Marie, John and Alice, beloved husband of Hea-di and loving tather to Elizabeth, Fa-cient service at St Michael and All neral service at St Michael and All Angels, Blackbeath Park, London SE, on Monday 22 September at 12 moon; followed by commutal at St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall, Essex, on Tuesday 23 September at 12 noon. Family flowers only; donations if desired to the Artists' General Benevolent Institution, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London WIV

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

0DJ, or to own preferred charity. The family wish to express their appreci-ation to all Tom's friends.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TRENCH: A memorial thanksgiving for the life of Richard Hugh Roger Ch-cactix Trench will be held at Jpm on Sarurday II October at the church of St Lawtence Jewy, Guildhall, Lon-don ECC. Enquiries to J. Trench (1) 21, 349 (1931) or P. Trench (0171-359 6093) or P. Trench (0171-

Annouscements for BIXTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATRS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The In-dependent, I Canada Square, Canary Winari, London E14 5DL, telephoned in 0171-293 2011 or fluxed to 0171-293 2010.

Birthdays Lord Ackner, a former Lord of Ap-

Lott Ackner, a torner Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 77; Mr Ray Alan, ventriloquist, 67; Mr Geoff Baxter, jockey, 51; Mr Anthony Beadles, Headmaster, Epsom College, 57; Mr Jack Cardiff, film director, 83; Mr Niall Crowley, former chairman, Allied Irish Banks, 71; Mr Winston Davis, cricketer, 39; Viscount Eccles, former MP, 93; Mr Robin Fleming. chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 65; Sir Thomas Hetherington QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, 71: Sir Curtis Keeble, former diplomat, 75; Dr Marjorie Mowlam MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 48; Mr Derek Pringle, cricketer, 39; Professor Christopher Ricks, Professor of English, Boston University, 64; Lord Rodger of Earlsferry QC, Lord Justice General and Lord President of the Court of Session, 53; Mr John Kendali Rowlands, former Keeper, Department of Prints and Drawings, British Museum, 66; Mr Peler

Shilton, footballer, 48; Mr John Stoddart, Principal, Sheffield Hallam University, 59; Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, former Principal, Roy-al Holloway and Bedford College, 72.

Anniversaries Births: Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury and author, 1643; Dr Samuel Johnson, lexicographer and writer, 1709; Jean-Bernard Léon Foucault, physicist, 1819; Anton Manve, landcape painter, 1838; Hans Müller, historian of music, 1854; Sir Owen Seaman, poet and editor of Punch, 1861; Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson Berners, 14th Baron Berners, com-poser, 1883; Arthur Benjamin, composer, 1893; Fay Compton (Virginia Lilian Emeline Compton), actress, 1894; John George Diefenbaker, statesman, 1895; Greta Garbo (Greta Lovisa Gustafsson), film actress, prime minister, 1909; Rossano Brazzi, actor, 1916. Dentis: Domit-

Hubert (Huybrecht) van Eyck, painter, 1426; Matthew Prior, poet, Home Rule Bill received Royal As-sent, 1914; South African troops landed in German South West 1721; Andrew Foulis, bookseller and printer, 1775; Leonhard Euler, mathematician, 1783; Gottlieb August Africa, 1914; Manchuria was taken Spangenberg, founder of the Moravian Church in America, 1792; Olaf Swartz, botanist, 1818; Robert Pol-lok, poet, 1827; William Haziitt, critic and essayist, 1830; Joseph critic and essayist, 1830; Joseph Locke, railway engineer, 1860; Dion Boucicanh (Dionysius Lardner Boursiquot), playwright and actor, 1890; Armand-Hippolyte Louis Fizeau, physicist, 1896; George MacDonald, poet and novelist, 1905; Francis Herbert Bradley, philosopher, 1924; Dr Dag Hammiarskjöld, UN secretary-general, 1961; Sean O'Casey, playwright, 1964; Sir John Douglas Cockcroft, physicist, 1951. On this day; the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, London (Royal Opera House) Ferreolus of Limoges, St Ferreolus of Vienne, St John Massias, St Joseph of Cupertino, St Methodius of Olympus and St Richardis.

den, London (Royal Opera House)

second theatre opened, 1809; Chile revolted and became independent of

Spain, 1810, the Anti-Corn Law

by the Japanese, who set up the purpoet state of Manchukuo, 1931; the Soviet Union was admitted to the League of Nations. 1934; following continual interruption of newspaper production by the NGA, the Newspaper Publishers Association announced that all national newspapers in London and Manchester would be closed down on the following day, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith. "Performance Art (3): Degas, Miss La La at the Cirque Fernando", 1pm. Michael Keen, "Art and Design of the

Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries", 2.50pm

Tate Gallery: Colin Cruise, "Thrue: and Time: The Boy of Baine", Ipm. British Museum: Joe Cribb, "HSBC Money Gallery: an introduction",

National Portrait Gallery: Margaret Binnie, "The Fire Court Judges", Kettle's Yard, Cambridge: "Betty Thompson's Kettle's Yard", 1.10pm.

Atlantic Council

Chairman of the Standing Conference of Atlantic Organisat Visiting Professor at Rockefeller College, State University of New York, was the guest speaker at an At-lantic Forum Briefing arranged by the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom last night at Brassey House, John Street, London WC1, Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Atlantic Council was in the chair.

Professor Walter Goldstein, Vice-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, visits HM Prison Askham Grange, Askham Richard, North Yorkshire, and attends the British Equine Veterinary Association Annual International Scientific Congress, Harrogate Conference Centre, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. The Duke of Gloucester, President, NABC - Clabs for Young People, visits clubs in Surrey, and attends a reception and dinner to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society of Archivists at Guildhall, London

South Bank Foundation, attents a reception at the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London SE1. Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life

EC1. The Duke of Kent, Patron, the

Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

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Similar



London's position as the leading financial centre of Europe came under threat yesterday as the German, French and Swiss futures and options bourses said they had teamed up to challenge Liffe's dominance of European derivatives trading. Meanwhile. a senior City figure has warned that the spiralling cost of regulation could jeopardise London's competitiveness. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports.

The chief executive of the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), Daniel Hodson, hit out yesterday at plans by his counterparts in three European countries to create a unified derivatives exchange in the run-up to monetary union. The planned alliance poses the most serious threat yet to the domnance of the 10-year-old London market.

The proposed super-exchange would be the largest market in futures and options in Europe, toppling Liffe from its leadership of the market in financial derivatives at a crucial time just months before the exchange rate parities for EMU are announced next spring.

In a simultaneous announcement in Frankfurt, Paris and Zurich yesterday, the they had developed plans to form a joint market for fixed income derivatives. The move followed a recent collaboration on European equity indices and paved the way, the three said, to a fully fledged alliance which would integrate their cash markets.

In a joint statement, the exchanges said: This alliance gives us the pole position for European Monetary Union. The alliance will offer the largest derivatives market in Europe." Last year the three partner exchanges had a joint volume of 194 million options and futures contracts.

A major significance of the link is the way it has overcome differences between trading platforms in the three countries, allowing parallel trading of products on the German and Swiss electronic systems and the open-outery floors used by France's Matif market. New products launched by the combined group will be traded electronically on one of the exchange's systems but dealers in the other participating companies will have equal access through a common "log-in". Only existing products will continue to be traded in Paris's open-

That is certain to focus attention once more on Liffe's insistence that its own system of floor trading is more efficient and provides greater liquidity than rival electronic platforms.

Traders say the continental agreement is mere window-dressing for the more fundamental battle between the different trading systems of international exchanges main challengers to Liffe in Europe said in London and Frankfurt, as the Continent

gears up for European economic and monetary union in January 1999.

Liffe is well aware of the threat the German bourse (DTB) provides. The DTB's trading volume in German Bund futures is catching up with Liffe's, at 44.4 per cent of total market share in August.

The Continental exchanges announced their link-up with impeccable timing, one day ahead of Liffe's launch of medium-term German bond, or Bobl, contracts, in direct competition to similar products on the DTB. "The link leaves Liffe at a disadvantage but I don't think it leaves them at any bigger disadvantage than it did before," said one German banker.

"The key there is the technology. The biggest thing that's threatening Liffe right now is simply the technology. This initiative does show the momentum is going towards electronic trading."

Liffe is moving to strengthen its own electronic technology, the mainly after-hours Automated Pit Trading (APT) system, but remains well behind the DTB in this area.

Joerg Franke, chief executive of DTB, the German derivatives exchange, and Eurez, its alliance with its Swiss counterpart, upped the stakes in the growing battle between the bourses yesterday by offering to join forces with Liffe if it was prepared to bandon its open-outery method of trading in favour of an electronic system.

Mr Hodson said Liffe was already the dominant player and accused the proposed merger of limiting choice.



Open outcry: The continental exchanges claim the biggest thing threatening Liffe (above) is technology

SuperSIB 'could cost £200m a year'

The creation of a unified City regulator, replacement of legislation in order to cre-SuperSIB, is likely to cost City firms £200m a year, according to an estimate by Coopers & Lybrand. That could jeopardise London's role as a leading financial centre, a senior figure at the accountancy firm told a conference on City regulation yes-

John Tattersall, chairman of Coopers' financial services team, was speaking shortly after Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, added flesh to the bones of the proposed new Financial Services Bill that will put the new City watchdog on the statute book.

She promised a wholesale repeal and

ate "a more coherent body of law" and called on City practitioners to participate fully in the consultation process leading up to its publication next year. Firms that did not do so and were unhappy with the end result would have no-one to blame but themselves, she said.

Other features of the forthcoming bill she spelled out yesterday included the maintenance of SIB's legal status as a company limited by guarantee, the appointment of its board by the Treasury, and the promise that City practitioners would have an input in the setting of fees.

Mr Tattersall focused on those regula-

regulation to individual firms would almost certainly rise between now and the end of the decade. He said the industry faced a challenge to keep those costs down.

According to work done by Coopers & Lybrand, the costs of regulation in the transition year from the self-regulatory system to the new single watchdog are likely to jump by 50 per cent to more than £200m.

Mr Tattersall warned there was a danger that the new regime would impose a "highest common denominator" approach to regulation which would dramatically in-

Strong high-street sales rekindle fears of increased interest rates

Higher interest rates are back on the agenda after stronger than expected retail sales, falling unemployment and a rise in average earnings growth scotched recent hopes that the buoyant ... economy was moderating.

Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor. sifts the data.

Retail sales continued to rise in August, fuelling fears that the Bank of England's pause for breath after a series of four interest rate rises might be short-lived. Analysts said the strength of high street sales was surprising given the poor weather and large numbers of people who had left the country on windfall-financed holidays.

The 5.6 per cent year-on-year rise in retail sales chimed with the lowest unemployment rate since August 1980 and average earnings rising at an annual rate of 4.5 per cent to paint a picture of a con-

tinuing boom. Meanwhile, minutes from the August meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee confirmed the increasing concern of policymakers that rates will need to rise if the economy is to meet the Government's inflation target.

Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said the strength of the high street data supported his view that the market had been premature in looking for a slowdown in demand. "The strength of consumer spending reflects more than just the impact of the windfall gains - one only has to look as far as today's labour market data for evidence of this."

That background, he added, meant the upside risks for base rates were greater than markets had priced into valuations. That had been underlined by the minutes of the 7 August meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee which showed its members voting unanimously for higher base rates.

Another surprise in the minutes was the revelation that the Bank had actively considered intervention to reverse the strength of the pound which caused exporters such problems early in the summer. Its unusual comments to talk down the pound were seen as an unexpected change of tack by

the traditionally discreet "Old Lady". One of the big disappointments for inflation hawks in yesterday's data was that official sales figures flatly contradicted evidence from the Confederation of British Industry and British Retail Consortium suggesting spending slowed in August.

Nick Stamenkovic, economist at DKB International, said the data reinforced the Bank's concerns that the economy was growing too strongly. And for Michael Dicks, UK economist at Lehman Brothers, the Bank of England's decision to sit back and take stock of the economy was putting it behind the curve. "Over the summer, the rate rises were pre-emptive but now we're back to the more traditional pattern in the UK of too little too late."

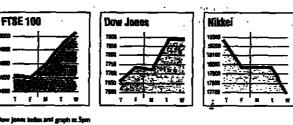
With September data largely meaningless thanks to the loss of an important trading day as the country watched Princess Diana's funeral, the Bank of England is expected to persist with its cautious stance for a couple of months, but economists agreed that a rate rise by the end of the

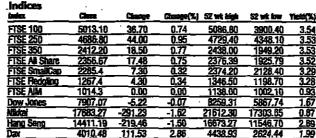
David Dharshini, at HSBC Markets, said: "These stronger-than-expected figures confirm that the windfalls continue to find their way to the high street. With sales growing by over 2 per cent in the latest three months, these numbers are unlikely to escape the notice of the MPC, and suggest that base rates have yet to reach their

Unemployment fell 48,600 in August after a decline of 54,600 (revised from 49,800) in July. That took the jobless rate back to 5.3 per cent, its lowest since 1980. Vacancies were 6,900 higher in August and 23 per cent up on the previous year. That tightening labour market was reflected in underlying average earnings, which were 4.5 per cent higher in July than a year earlier. The increase in June was 4.25 per cent.

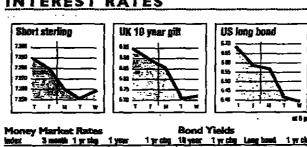
According to Francesca Massone of Goldman Sachs: "On any measure, the labour market is still rightening at an alarming rate. Vacancies are 57 per cent above their long-term trend and unemployment is now 97,000 below its previous cyclical

She pointed out that the rise in average earnings growth was due to a recent settlement in the construction sector, which is suffering more than most sectors from labour shortages, but warned that those could easily spill over into other industries. She predicted a further half-point base rate rise by next spring.



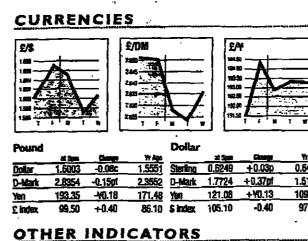


INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (a)	Che (p)	% Cage	Fails	Price (p)	Cag (p)	5.0
Britannic Assce	939.00	93.00	10.99	Brit Altways PLC	670.00	-32.50	-3.
Givnwed inti	272.50				104,50		-3.
Thistle Hotels	136.00	9,00		BG PLC	258.50	<u>-10.00</u>	-4.
Weir Group PLC	289.50	18.50	6.83	Nati Power PLC	552.00	-20.50	-3.
·							



112.80 3.40 109.1 24-Oct

320.15 -0.60 383.35 RPI 158.50 3.5 153.14 7-Oct

Brent 00 (S) 18.17 -0.04 21.11 GDP

4.59 -0.13 5.06 Base Rates

'Prudence' ruled out bigger BG buy-back

BG raised the prospect of further controversial share buy-backs yesterday after announcing plans to hand back £1.3bn to investors, reports Chris Godsmark, Business

Correspondent. At the same time the group slashed its dividend payout to shareholders almost a half.

Richard Giordano, BG's chairman, admitted yesterday that the company had considered a bigger buy-back of more than £2bn and did not rule out further windfalls to investors later. "We could have done more but we needed to be prudent."

The share buy-back plans come months after the company bad fought a running battle with the industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, over pipeline charges. Mr Giordano insisted the money would come by raising BG's debts to £5bn, "We don't have the money in the till to buy back the shares. We have to borrow," he said.

The anticipated flak over the move largely failed to materialise, with the Gas Consumers Council suggesting the buyback, which would replace expensive equity with cheaper debt, could be good for customers. Unison, one of the main gas unions, called for a meeting with the

company to explain why it could afford a buy-back when cutting 2,500 jobs.

Shares in BG fell 10p to 258.5p yesterday as investors digested the company's announcement of a hig cut in its dividend. The payout to 1.4 million investors will fall this year from 14.5p to 8p, slashing the company's dividend bill from £640m to £320m. The reduction follows the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's call for big cuts in BG's pipeline charges, which will reduce annual revenues by some £650m. The company refused to be drawn yes-

ulator. She is proposing to cap BG's pipeline revenues, a move that the company claims would go beyond the MMC's The news came as BG announced halfyearly losses of £28m, after including a £514m charge to cover the windfall utility

terday on continued haggling over the price

formula with Clarc Spottiswoode, the reg-

tax. Earnings were £486m before the windfall tax bill, though warmer winter weather knocked £104m off profits. BG's Exploration and Production business announced profits of £57m, a strong

improvement from losses of £26m the year

Separately yesterday Ms Spottiswoode revealed that 500,000 domestic customers had switched from British Gas to new suppliers in competition trials covering 2 million homes in the south of England.

Energis to buy services from Orange

Energis, the telephones business likely to be floated this year by National Grid, is in negotiations with Orange which could see the mobile operator offering fixed-line services for the first time.

The deal would be the second link-up with a mobile company for Energis, which is expected to sign a similar agreement with Vodafone within days. Under the plans Orange could sell Energis fixed phone services under its own brand. It would enable Orange, newest of the four mobile operators, to move towards a combined mobile and fixed phone handset.

The deal would enable Energis to gain local links to more customers through the Orange mobile network, which has more than I million subscribers. Around 40 per cent of Energis's costs currently stem from paying access charges to route its calls through British Telecom's local network.

Energis is also carrying out trials of wireless technology to transmit fixed phone line signals to bypass the BT network. The technology, similar to that used by Ionica, would help the company push into the small- and medium-sized business market.

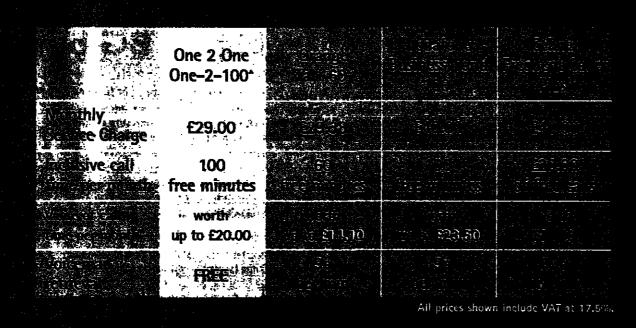
Though Energis has amassed 20,000 business customers it has so far concentrated its assault on the lucrative large company market, running large internal phone networks for Boots, Virgin and British Gas. Revenues of £97m last year are expected to grow to £160m this year.

Another area of expansion has come from Internet traffic. Energis is understood to have signed a £10m contract with Demon, the UK's largest independent Internet access provider, offering phone line capacity. Though the flotation plans are advanced, the Grid is not thought finally to have decided on the sale. It could value Energis at up to £16n.

24/BUSINESS



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IMF praises Britain's performance

outlook is the best it has been for a decade and is underpinned by solid growth with low inflation in Britain, the United States and Canada. This conclusion is the centrepiece of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) annual world.economic forecast released vesterday. writes Stephen Vines in Hong Kong.

The IMF, which generally favours conservative fiscal policies, points to Britain as a shining example of a country which ket reforms to produce greater flexibility and as having a firm fiscal policy which has suc-

Praise for Britain, and indirectly for the July Budget presented by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is somewhat overshadowed by the gushing review of the nents of the Clinton bined "prudent macroeconomics policies together with an exceptionally dynamic private sector and a responsive labour market" to achieve "solid growth of output and employment with low inflation and a

diminishing fiscal imbalance". The massive engine of the United States economy is helpnomy, which is projected to grow by 4 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent next year, and the IMF believes this impressive level of growth can be sustained into the next decade. These levels of growth compare with the average 3.75 per cent rate of ex-

Japan and the continental European countries are proving to be a disappointment, leading to a reduction in growth forecasts by the IMF. Japan's economy is now only expected to expand by 1.1 per cent this year and 2.1 per cent in 1998. This is a virtual halving of estimates and reflects unexpectedly weak domestic demand and the knock-on effect of the financial crisis in South-east Asia which has reduced de-

mand for Japanese goods.

The economies of German France and Italy are picking up, but slowly. None of them is expected to match the growth of the British economy which is forecast to grow in real terms by 3.3 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent the following year.

Flemming Larsen, director of the IMF's report project, said he was more concerned about micro-economic fundamentals in Europe than the problems of fiscal convergence which was needed if European monetary union was to be achieved. He unlike Britain, the continental European countries were not placing sufficient emphasis on making labour markets more

The IMF argues that Britain and the United States are creating more jobs and reducing unemployment by having taken tough measures to create a flexible labour force. In practise this means the loss of job security, the removal of demarcation lines and less state protection against redundancy. According to the IMF the pres-"insiders" who have jobs and are effectively blocking those who do not from gaining employment. It dismisses innovations such as work sharing and early retirement as either exacerbating or masking the fundamental problems.

The report says that 8 to 9 per cent of the labour force in continental Europe's three largest countries suffer from structural employment, which is 3 to 3.5 percentage points more that might be attributed to normal mismatches in the labour market. The root cause, says the IMF, is "elaborate job and income protection arrangements that raise the cost of labour and discourage job creation".

The IMF forecasts were issued ahead of the World Bank/IMF meetings which are financial crisis among the neighbours of Hong Kong where the meetings are being held.

Michael Mussa, head of the IMF's research department, stressed that despite these problems, Asia, led by a strong performance from China, was likely to continue registering the world's highest economic growth levels even though the South-east Asian countries would see their rates of growth halved in the next two years.

Midlands Elec null plug on Co

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THE WORLD OUTLOOK **World Output** Advanced econ Maior Industria countries 2.8

1997 Projections United states 3.7 1.1 2.3 2.2 1.2 3.3 21 26 United Kingdom Other advanced 3.9 4.2

Hot weather cools profits at Next

Next, the high-flying retailer, surprised the stock market yesterday with figures showing a weak August due to the hot weather, higher returns from its summer sale and the half-day closure for Princess Diana's

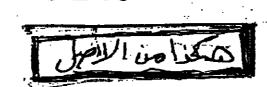
However the group said that though the figures forced profits downgrades and were out of line with strong official retail statistics for the month, it believes it has not lost its touch.

Next's announcement that sales in the six weeks since the end of July were just 10 per cent ahead of the same period last year on 8 per cent more space forced the shares down by around 40p in early trading. However, the stock recovered to post a 7p gain to 735.5p.

"We don't believe the Next bubble is going to burst on the basis of six weeks' figures," said chairman Lord Wolfson. Lord Wolfson said mourning for the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, cost the group around £3m of sales in August. But the greatest impact was the hot weather, which encouraged shoppers to sunbathe instead, and a high level of returns

The current trading statement overshadowed Next's halfyear figures which showed that pre-exceptional profits rose from £56m to £67.3m. The stores reported a 20 per cent increase in profits to £36m. Next Directory, the mail order catalogue, also did well with profits up from £11.8m to £15.8m.





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OUTLOOK

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Why Liffe should see off this challenge

tures and options trading has long been the object of jealous regard by both Frankfurt and Paris. This is more than just a commercial thing. It is also about ancient rivairies, and, most important of all, alarm that the City could continue to be the dominant financial centre in a Europe united by a common currency Britain may never be a part of.

So far, however, neither Paris nor Frankfurt has come anywhere near rivalling Liffe, which even manages to beat them on their own ground with locally denominated derivative instruments. Unequal to the task on their own, the two are now proposing to gang together in their attempt to trounce London's testosterone-fuelled barrow boys in stripey jackets. Might they succeed?

They've tried once before and failed and while the latest attempt to pool contracts and resources looks a more serious stab at the exercise, there's no reason to believe they will fare any better this time round. For starters, the two have adopted radically different approaches to futures trading. Paris has copied the open outcry method of eyeball-to-eyeball trading used in London and by the Chicago Board of Trade. Frankfurt is a high-tech, screenbased trading system.

While it is true that the two methods coexist perfectly happily both in London and Chicago, that is only because screen trading is so obviously only a little-used backup to the action in the pit. The two cultures ing the other. Paris and Frankfurt may be united in their hatred of London but their hatred of each other is equally powerful.

. Even assuming the alliance works, they still have a huge catching-up exercise to do. The Deutsche Boerse and Matif combined are still streets behind Liffe in terms of critical mass. Chuck in Simex, the Far Eastern futures exchange, for good meastire, and they still wouldn't come close.

But there is also a more fundamental reason to believe Liffe will maintain its lead. The City is in essence an offshore centre not dependent on the fortunes of the LIK economy. No other financial centre in the world is quite like it. It is this, more than anything else, that lies behind Liffe's phenomenal growth. Other financial centres, even the great ones of New York and Tokyo, exist mainly to service their own domestic economies. That is not true of the City which is genuinely international in the

way it operates and trades. It would be dangerous for Liffe to be complacent, but nor do the bellicose noises from Paris and Frankfurt seem for the time being like anything more than hot air.

Britain is IMF's blue-eyed boy

It is always nice to be patted on the back for economic achievement, so those British newspapers that chose to break the embargo on the IMF's world economic rewill not merge easily without one subsum- port yesterday can hardly be blamed for

highlighting the glowing terms in which it describes Britain's economy and prospects and the unfavourable gloss it puts on those of our main Continental partners. Had we too chosen not to respect the embargo on publication, we probably would have done the same thing.

The point ought to be made, however, that the IMF is hardly an unbiased observer of these things. The International Monetary Fund is not, as might reasonably be supposed, just some kind of worldwide benevolent fund always willing to lend a hand to those countries that get themselves into difficulties. Its real purpose is essentially that of foisting the American model and way of doing things on the rest of the world, which it does with considerable success in time-honoured way extracting root and branch reform out of the despair of economic crisis.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the IMF should see in Britain the blue-eyed boy of Europe. With its deregulated labour and capital markets, Britain is the country that most closely accords in Europe with the American model. By contrast, other previously much more successful economies seem stuck in a bygone age. Modernise or die, the IMF shouts, Tony Blair-like, and though most of the rest of Europe still rather regards America's attempts to sell its ways as tantamount to the export of toxic waste, it gets an increasingly receptive hearing. Everyone believes in flexible labour markets, fiscal responsibility and free capital markets now, even if they don't prac-

It is almost exactly 21 years ago that the IMF came to the rescue of our own dear country and it is perhaps possible to see in the price it extracted the roots of Britain's present economic renaissance. Certainly the humiliation of the sterling crisis of 1976 helped undermine the credibility of the Labour administration and pave the way for the economic reforms of the 1980s. And now here we are basking in the glow of an economic assessment that paints us in a more favourable light than Germany and Japan. But let's not get too carried away here. There's one country that gets an even better write-up than us - the United States of America, Surprise, surprise.

Britannic bonanza raises questions

Bonanza time at Britannic, if you are a shareholder, that is. The company yesterday gave details of how much sharebolders stand to gain from the distribution of its "orphan assets", surpluses that have built up over decades in many insurers' long-term life funds.

Traditionally, these have been used to pay policyholders' bonuses. But in the case insurance companies that are not mutually owned, the fashion increasingly is to allocate ownership of these orphan assets to shareholders rather than policyholders. And what's wrong with that given that it is shareholders' capital which has contributed to the success of the life fund?

There are several potential problem areas here. Although the surpluses distributed in this way have to be negotiated with and approved by the Department of Trade and Industry, as often as not the chief actuary who makes the calculation of what the fund can afford is also a senior employee of the company. In Britannic's case, the chief executive, in fact. This immediately raises a potential conflict of interest between his duties to shareholders as opposed to policyholders.

Second, the surpluses have often built up because of a conservative distribution policy by the company, whereby the bonuses it pays out to policyholders are modest by comparison to the investment gains being made by the fund. Members of a mutual insurer can say that all the money in their life fund belongs to them. If a way is then found to unlock surpluses in the fund, as happened with Scottish Amicable in its takeover by Prudential, the assets are theirs.

In some cases it is more complicated than this, because, as with L&G and, Britannic argues, itself, the surplus identified has come not just from better investment returns from with-profits business, but also from shareholders' capital in the life fund. Britannic says the money comes from business written before the with-profit fund was set up. Even so, the argument still applies: if shareholders are going to grab a slice of the cake where does that leave the legitimate interests of policyholders? The orphan asset issue seems as good a reason as any for shopping with a mutual every time.

Midlands Electricity pays millions to pull plug on computer billing system

.Midlands Electricity yesterday joined the long list of utilities that have had to abandon expensive computer billing systems. Michael Harrison reports on the casualties.

Work began installing the IBM system at Midlands' Birmingham headquarters five years ago and at one point 160 contractors were working on the project. But the system, costing tens of millions of pounds, was abandoned last week after Midlands decided that it would not he ready in time for the deregulation of the electricity market next April when 22 million households, including its 2 million domestic customers, will be able to start shopping around for suppliers.

Midlands is the third electricity company to ditch the IBM system. A year ago South Wales Electricity and South Western Electricity abandoned their system which was being developed through a joint venture called CROESO. Swalec made a £30m charge to cover handle the transition to comthe cost of withdrawing.

A Midlands spokeswoman said that far from delaying the investment this would entail. launch of competition in the region, the decision to scrap the in any job losses at Midlands, would enable it to meet the deadlines it has agreed with the industry regulator Offer.

She declined to say how much the system had cost to develop or how much Midlands would have to write off. But the company estimated in May that the cost of getting its computer systems ready for the deregulated market would be £67.45m. This compares with the £24.67m that Offer says it

will cost and is allowing Midlands to pass on to its customers. Total nationwide costs are put at £850m by the industry and £500m by Offer.

The company has decided that it will develop its existing mainframe computer system to petitive markets. But it declined to say how much extra The decision will not result

IBM Customer Services System where about a dozen staff were involved on the project. Nor is any individual being held to blame for the costly move. "The system looked ideal five years ago but we decided that if we were to be ready for 1998 and be a major player in the competitive market then it would be better to invest in our existing mainframe system."

An IBM spokesman told the magazine Utility Week that Midlands had abandoned the sys-

tem "in light of developments in the marketplace. But IBM went on to defend the system, saying it was "installed around the world with many utilities and other organisations that have large number of customers being billed automatically". Another of its UK

customers is Southern Electric. Midlands was taken over in June last year by Avon Energy, a joint venture between two US utilities-GPU of Obio and Cinergy of Cincinatti for £1.73bn. But the Midlands spokeswoman said the decision to abandon the IBM system was taken by it, not the parent company.

British Gas has also rum into problems with its Tariff Gas Billing System which have resulted in it having to spend £120m to get the system ready for domestic gas competition. Cellnet, the mobile telephone operator also lost £40m on a customer billing system.

Kingfisher benefits from the windfall factor

Kingfisher, the retail group, has reported a surge in profits as its Comet and B&Q stores reap the benefits of the building society windfalls, reports Nigel Cope, City Correspondent.

Kingfisher's chief executive, Sir Geoff Mulcahy, said the group had re-established its pattern of sustained growth which was derailed by a shock profits warning in 1995. The company's 36 per cent increase in half-year profits to £150m was ahead of analysts' forecasts and boosted by strong performances from B&Q and Comet. Group like-for-like sales rose by 8 per cent across the group. The shares rose 13.5p to a new high of 795.5p.

Sir Geoff said: "We are seeing improved consumer confidence but people are still pretty cautious about what they spend. It is not an Eighties-style

boom." He admitted the figures had been boosted by the windfall factor but said this money was "rapidly blowing through". "It's not wonderland. But we

are doing the simple things right, listening to our customers and improving all the time."

Sir Geoff said Kingfisher was looking for additional sites for its Woolworths and Comet chains. Though Kingfisher backed away from buying the whole of Littlewoods' high street stores because it felt the price was too high, Sir Geoff

street space from retailers such as Littlewoods and WH Smith. B&Q was the star per-

former with profits up from £47m to £72.2m in the half. B&Q increased its market share from 17 to 18 per cent over the year. Woolworths, whose profit almost doubled to £10m, is testing a Football World section in one branch. It sells replica football kits but has had problems securing adequate supplies. Comet also did well, turning round a £3m loss said he was still interested in in the equivalent period last picking up additional high year to a £2.6m profit.

Interest

Free

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

The state of the s

Bass licks its wounds as alcopop sales dive

Leading brewers say that alcopops sales have fallen sharply in the wake of public concern that they might lead to under-age drinking. Cathy Newman reports on the state of play.

Bass, which recently repackaged Hooper's Hooch, Britain's biggest-selling alcopop, to aim for a more adult market, said that volume sales of the drink in the UK had fallen by 11 per cent in the first 11 months of the year.

A spokesman for the company yesterday blamed the furore over under-age drinking, which has led to the withdrawal of five alcopops. He said: "The issue was specifically about concerns over

under-age drinking, which reduced consumption." But he added that Bass was confident that the £1m relaunch of the product to appeal

to drinkers beyond the original 25- to 35-year-old target market, would solve the problems. However, the group said that international sales of Hooper's Hooch were still healthy. Merrydown, the cidermaker that owns the second best-selling alcopop, Two Dogs,

admitted yesterday that its own

sales had been hit by the deci-

sion of pubs such as JD

Wetherspoon to stop stocking

the drinks. Whitbread also excluded alcopops from 400 of its 1,700 pubs earlier this year.

Paul Millman, managing director of Merrydown, said: There has been a lot of distribution rationalisation. If you remove alcopops from your shelves, surprise surprise, sales

that the alcopops sector was still big. He added that he was confident that advertising campaigns for Two Dogs would improve sales. Hooper's Hooch was the

first alcopops brand to arrive in the UK two years ago. The market is now worth around £350m Ian Prosser, chairman of

Bass, was upbeat about the company's overall prospects. He said: "I am pleased to be able to say that our profits, before exceptional items, reflect the progress expected in the second half."

Analysts said that the £35m charge from the sale of its stake in Carlsberg-Tetley was in line with expectations. Bass sold its share following

the ruling by the President of the Board of Trade that the merger of the two companies could not go ahead. The group has also been

35 Time Showrooms

forced to write down the value of its bingo assets after a poor trading performance from the division which has been hit by the effects of the National



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Hooper's Hooch: Now aiming for a more adult market

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Buy-backs brighten BG prospects

The 250,000 Sids who sold their British Gas shares after this year's demerger may well he breathed a sigh of relief yesterday. BG, the successor pipeline and exploration business, announced it was slashing its dividend by more than a third. The cut in the interim from 6.4p to 4p will be followed by a similar reduction in the final payout, bringing total dividends for 1997 down to just 8p, compared with 14.5p under the old regime.

Shocks are always best absorbed with a little good news thrown in and BG surprised no one vesterday by revealing plans for a £1.3bn share buy-back, worth 30p a share. The complex capital restructuring which comes with the buy-back, a path already trodden by Southern Floric and Yorkshire Water, means all shareholders from Sid to the City will benefit equally.

So after a turbui. · for investors, is "improved in-: long-term prosp. ? The short answer is yes, with the caveat that the one-off cut in the dividend - forced on 1 by the big reduction in pipeline prices recommended by the Monupolies and Merg 'rs Commission - means the shares will never be quite the same yield stock they the in the old British Gas days.

For a start, the rebased dividend should be inflation-proof, given that the new fiveyear pipeline price formula to be agreed with the regulator is index-linked. On top of that, the substantial turnaround in BG's exploration and production business, now running in the black, could mean further upside for the dividend. Better still, there remains the long-term

derlying profits are still up a handy 21 per cent to £29.7m.

General Cable was a piece of conglomeratisation in the best possible sense of the word, with margins jumping from next to nothing to around 9 per cent during the three years of Wassall's ownership. The group fol-lowed up the sale with a £150m cash handback to shareholders.

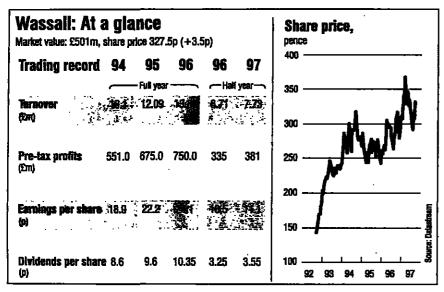
It is hard to see what else it can do to satisfy the City, yet Wassall's shares have underperformed the FTSE All-Share index by close to 30 per cent since the General Cable purchase. Now the market is fretting over how the group will spend its acquisition firepower, put at around £500m.

The Far East, where Wassall has a Singapore quote through its York trailer axle business, must be a candidate for expansion and eventual flotation, once a locally recruited chief executive is in place.

Dilution caused by the cash could see profits slip from £55m this year to £46m next, putting the shares, up 3.5p at 327p, on a forward multiple of 17. Hold for further action.

Sentiment the key to Gallaher

Tobacco share prices have little to do with profits these days. Sentiment is the key. Shares in Gallaher, demerged from American Brands and floated at 283p in June, have undemerformed the market by 16 per cent since then. Part of the reason is a lack of liquidity in the shares - some 75 per cent are still



possibility of further buy-backs. Prudence will dictate a waiting game, but the group's strong cash flow could yield more pleasant surprises. Meanwhile any Sids who still hold Centrica shares, the demerged gas supply business, could also see buy-backs later next year. The improving outlook should bring profits at BG to £782m for 1997. Despite the recent price rises, the shares, down 10p at 258.5p, still look attractive on a forward yield of 3.9 per cent.

Wassall battles to please City

Wassall is doing its best to learn from the disastrous recent performance of other conglomerates, such as Hanson and BTR.

This year it raised £462m from the flotation of 100 per cent of General Cable, the US copper wires operation it bought in 1994. Some £199m of the resulting £277m gain is reflected in the latest half-year results, which explains the huge jump in half-year profits. But unheld by US investors who see Gallaher as low

But yesterday's strong maiden interims added only 4p to the share price, which closed at 273p. The growing threat of litigation in the UK, where Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco have around 80 per cent of the market, remains a negative. So, too, are Labour's manifesto pledges to ban tobacco advertising and cut sports sponsorship.

In reality, none of these poses a serious threat to Gallaher. The group's Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands have some of the best instant recognition rates and would survive without advertising.

The group is also striking more international sponsorship deals and pushing international expansion hard, particularly in eastern Europe and the Far East.

On SBC Warburg profit forecasts, Gallaher on 8.7 times 1997 pro forma earnings looks cheap next to Imperial on 9.3 times. However, with the US situation still uncertain and the likelihood of group legal action in the UK, sentiment is likely to remain negative for the next few months.

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Savoy group to expand overseas



The Savoy Hotel group, revitalised by managing director Ramon Pajares, is planning to move back overseas just two years after selling the prestigious Lancaster Hotel in Paris, reports Magnus Grimond.

In an important departure for the 108year-old group, Mr Pajares said yesterday he saw "tremendous opportunities" to expand the group into half a dozen or more of the "right" international destinations, including

Paris, New York, Rome, Milan, Madrid and Hong Kong.

Although the group owned the Lancaster until 1994, it has not previously had a significant presence overseas. Mr Pajares said it would seek underperforming hotels with similar characteristics to the Savoy. In return for underwriting the costs of refurbishment, the group would pick up an equity stake and take on the management contract.

Although there would be no plans to change the local name of the hotels, the group would benefit from the Savoy brand name, Mr Pajares suggested. "With the value of the brand name, a brand which we cannot put in the bal-

gy will make brands even more important, this is a tremendous

opportunity we have to develop." The international chain, to be built up over five or six years, would allow overheads to be spread, better utilise the Savoy's international marketing effort and give the opportunity to create a central reservations system. Given the increasing opportunity afforded by technology for guests to make their own bookings, a familiar international brand name like the Savoy would become increasingly valuable, he suggested.

The news came as the Savoy group, currently including the Savoy Hotel,

ance sheet, and given that technolo- The Berkeley, Claridge's and The Connaught, reported an 84 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £7.71m in the six months to June. The figures reflected the benefits of a £72m refurbishment programme, principally at Claridge's and The Savoy, which helped the four London hotels raise their occupancy rates to 86.4 per cent. Average room rates rose a further 5 per cent in the first half, after an 18 per cent increase last year.

British Stee

Granada, which has said it wants to dispose of its 68 per cent stake in the group inherited from last year's Forte takeover, has told Mr Pajares it is "not in a hurry" to sell the shares in the light of the improving performance.

Trinity rides regional newspaper upswing

International Holdings, the UK's biggest regional newspaper publisher, should have helped this confidence. But, as Cathy Newman reports, there are fears the advertising boom has peaked.

Trinity, which owns titles such as the Liverpool Echo and the Chester Chronicle, beat analysts' expectations to turn in a 34 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £32m for the six months to the end of June.

Philip Graf, chief executive, said lower newsprint prices and strong advertising revenues had helped. But he added a note of caution about future advertising growth. "This year we've grown 10 per cent in advertising in the first half," he said. "I don't see that continuing next year." Mr Graf said he anticipated 4 per cent growth

His comments, and City analysts' feelings that the advertising cycle may have peaked, sent the shares 2 per cent lower to close at 492p.

Mr Graf, who engineered the £328m

The City has warmed to regional purchase of Thomson Regional Newsnewspaper groups and yesterday's papers two years ago, said he remained ambitious about acquisitions. "I would hope we have the track record to do another Thomson-style acquisition if the opportunity arose," he added.

Analysts said Trinity could be interested in United Provincial Newspapers (UPN), the regional newspaper division of United News & Media.

Newsquest Media Group, which comes to the market later this year, said earlier this week it would look at UPN if it came. up for sale.

Trinity said it had reinvested some of the costs saved on newsprint back into the business to improve the editorial product. The group has been experimenting with cutting the cover-prices in Belfast and south Wales to boost circulation. Mr Graf said that although weekly newspaper circulations were "on a par with or ahead of last year", daily circulation was "not as good as we would have wished".

He added that a strategic review of the group's American business would be complete by the end of the year. Analysts have been concerned about the future direction of the division, and some have hoped Trinity would focus on the UK. The company sold its Canadian newspapers at the beginning of the year.

Orphan assets boost **Britannic Assurance**

Britannic Assurance shares jumped 93p to 939p yesterday after the insurance group unveiled plans to use £1bn of "orphan assets" to boost dividends by 20 per cent a year for three to four years. The move follows Government agreement earlier this year that shareholders were the rightful owners of the assets, built up over the last 50 years. In its first half-year results since gaining approval for the distribution, Britannic announced a doubling of its interim dividend to 10p net per share and forecast a full-year dividend 20 per cent up to 33.6p per share. Britannic said it would put £75m, or 7.5 per cent of current assets, into shareholders' funds each year as a smoothed investment return, which helped spur a 211 per cent increase in profits to £80.1m. Outlook, page 25

Laing sees homes recovery

John Laing, the contractor and house-building group, yesterday joined the chorus of builders forecasting a sustained recovery in the housing market. Robert Wood, deputy chairman, said higher interest rates were unlikely to hit the market until 1999 and, despite possible signs of overheating in central London prices, they were not seeing a boom. "I think the market is sustainable", he said. Laing reported a 41 per cent leap in group pre-tax profits to £12.4m for the six months to June, fuelled by the homes side, where profits mushroomed from £2m to £6.6m. Profits from the construction business rose from £500,000 to £1.7m, with work on hand up from £1.07bn to £1.14bn.

Mortgage lending slows

Mortgage lending slowed to a year-on-year rate of 8 per cent in August, down from 12 per cent in July, suggesting the market is entering a more stable period, according to Barclays. Latest figures from the bank, whose Barciays Mortgage Index covers all mortgage lenders, showed mortgage advances of £7.4bn in August. down 7 per cent from the August figure of £7.9bn, the first fall

\$1.4bn Rolls-Royce order

Rolls-Royce's Allison engines division could reap over \$1.4bn in sales after Embraer, the Brazilian aircraft maker, yesterday selected Allison AE3007A3 turbo-fans to power a new 37-seat regional jet. The UK jet-engine maker forecast that Embraer would sell 500 of its new EMB-135 aircraft over the next 10 years. Embraer said it would spend \$100m to develop the EMB-135.

Forex traders' VAT hopes rise

Foreign exchange traders could be in line for a windfall of up to £100m if a preliminary ruling on value-added tax is backed by the European Court of Justice, according to accountants KPMG. The Advocate General, whose opinions are usually confirmed by the court, has said in a case brought by First National Bank of Chicago that VAT associated with transactions with non-European Union parties can be recovered.

Boutherpe (1) Britanic Assurance (2) Clarement Sermonts (5) Kinglishter (1) John Laloy (1) Berneri Malliems (7)	Turnsover £ 260m (271m) - (-) 260m (271m) 2.80m (250m) 684.1m (574.0m) 185.5m (172.3m)	Pre-Cax L 40.2m (42.5m) 80.1m (25.8m) 0.97 (2.57m) 157.9m (109.6m) 12.4m (8.8m) 6.7m (10.4m)	9.0p (5.8p)	10.0p (5.0p) 2.0p) 6.5p (5.0p) 3.5p (3.0p)
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			3 49p (5.76p)	1.8p (17p)
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MOR Group (F)	39.4m (38.4m)	5.604m (4.81m)	7.3p (5.7p)	3.8p (3.6p)
Ment (f):	520.9az (406.4an)	71.2m (56.0m)	13.9p (10.9p)	6.0p (5.0p)
PTS Group (I)	40.6m (34.4m)	755,000 (1.01m)	2.12p (3.23p)	1.30 (1.30)
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Savey Matel (I)	44.4m (41.1m)	7.712sp (4.19sp)	11.3p (19.2p)	al
54U.D	28.3m (28.3m)	3.8m (3.08m)	24 18p (16.93p)	(4.5p (4.0p)
Hally lates (i)	159.7m (165.3m)	32.0m (23.8m)		4.0p (3.5p)
Try Group (I)	723m (742m)	757,000 (361,000)		쨰
Frank Univer (F)	21.8m (21.5m)	2.15m (2.02m)	19.7p (18.1p)	,11.0p (11.0p
Varial (i)	388.7m (496.8m)	231.5m (22.4m)		3 430 (3 <i>2</i> 1p
Waterpargher (F)	100,0m (105.3m)	12.402 (9 GHz)		2.750 (2.750

Matthews' profits under pressure

problems looked set to continue.

most 10 per cent on the news even though the company said a raft of cost- man yesterday. cutting and efficiency measures would make the group more competitive.

The Norfolk-based company, which issued a profits warning in May, yesterday reported a decline in half-year profits to rectors, Tony Heywood, business £6.7m compared to £10.4m in the same period last year.

It blamed the strong pound, higher interest rates, falling commodity prices of meetings with the group's advisers and high cereal prices for the fall.

on exports and enabled imports to place majority of shareholders did not seek his pressure on turkey meat prices in the do-reinstatement, an independent source dismestic market. The shares fell 10p to 96.5p agreed: "A large number of shareholders compared to over 130p earlier this year. are very unhappy that Chai has gone. Many

branded product sales pointed to a more instatement." favourable outlook in 1998. Overall sales in the half year increased by 7.5 ner cent to £185m with sales of ing for an emergency meeting. Shareholders

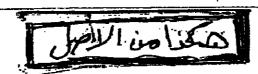
Care First faces revolt over Patel

that has been hit by the strong pound and revolt following a board decision not to price pressures, yesterday warned that the reinstate Chai Patel, the group's former chief executive who walked out last month. Shares in Bernard Matthews fell by al- Keith Bradshaw, its executive chairman, stepped down to non-executive chair-

> In a statement released after the market closed, Care First said the board had agreed not to reinstate Mr Patel. However, it is understood that two executive didevelopment director, and Chai Patel himself opposed the decision.

The board vote came after a tense day Collins Stewart and SBC Warburg. Though The strong pound has affected margins the board apparently told Mr Patel that a However, Bernard Matthews said a of them have talked about requisitioning programme of cost reductions, efficiency an EGM. I am sure that if an EGM were improvements and a drive to expand held, they would vote for Chai's re-

More than 10 per cent of shareholders would have to write to the company askbranded products up by more than 10 per are also thought to be unhappy that Mr cent. Overseas operations increased sales Bradshaw will stay on as acting chief executive until a replacement is found.



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British Steel forges ahead to make the running with Railtrack MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN STOCK **MARKET** REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Two privatisation shares made to hold their best levels they Commerciank was involved in the stock market running. have already this week more a deal to buy Nat West's secu-British Steel gained 10.5p to than wiped out last week's de-rities arm refused to fade. A 184.5p and Railtrack reached a new peak, up 32.5p to of the activity is due to jock- the sale of its Australian and The shares, after their recent Confident noises on the 809.5p. Their display helped

gain to 5,013.1. stemmed largely from curabout its property potential. a 7.3 gain at 2.285.4. There was talk Railtrack is near to clinching a lucrative Bank's headlong gallop was deal with a leading property reined back with the shares

could attract overseas interest. Stockbroker Panmure Gordon was in the thick of the ex- Dutch bank that controls the the European Union. The citement, suggesting a 950p

Footsie clamber back above futures expiry. And stronger- sets for a reputed £200m. 5,000 points with a 36.7-point than-expected retail sales, plus another unemployment fall,

rency influences but Railtrack rush of interest in second- to analysts. National Power fell was entangled in an array of line shares with the FTSE 250 20.5p to 552.5p and PowerGen rumours, ranging from the in- index jumping 44 to 4,686.8, 22p to 755p. Worst performevitable share buy-back to although the FTSE Small- ing blue chip was British Airmouth-watering estimates Caps index was restrained to ways, ruffled by further doubts

Hoare Govett securities Although blue chips failed as a possible bidder and talk block it.

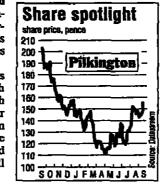
cline. There is evidence some further story surfaced about eying ahead of tomorrow's New Zealand investment as-

The generators remained subdued on the latest strictures British Steel's performance reawakened interest rate fears, from the industry regulator Still, for once, there was a and the cautious noises made over the American Airlines

National Westminster alliance. P&O sank 16p to 668p as its proposed ferry merger with group and even suggestions it restricted to a 2.5p advance to Stena Line, the Swedish 877.5p. But the rumours congroup, appeared to encounter timued to flow. ABN Amro, the not unexpected concerns from Eurocrats want the proposed house, appeared in the frame link modified or they will

BG produced its buy-back 29.5p gain to 481p. Glass- Estandi said he might bid 70p and provided further evidence maker Pilkington, for so long a share for the 76 per cent he that it is better to buy on a in the doldrums, had the satrumour and sell on the fact. strength, fell 10p to 258.5p, dragging Centrica 3p down to

Britannic Assurance, on its orphan funds transfer, surged 93p to 939p with United Assurance offering a



isfaction of a 9p gain to 156.5p. Continent and Goldman Sachs support was behind the

does not own.

share-buying.

Lavendon, an equipment

hire company floated at 140p

in October, rose 9.5p to 275p

following investment meet-

ings. Hard-pressed cider

maker Matthew Clark hard-

ened 6p to 230p on director

Sibir Energy firmed to

14.5p as Stancroft Trust, the

investment vehicle of Nicholas

per cent; JKX Oil & Gas

stuck at 50.5p with the Ukrain-

ian interest lifted to just over

Lloyds investment trust,

firmed 1p to 125.5p. It pro-

duced encouraging figures but

some wonder about a takeover bid. The Australian-controlled

Finsbury Underwriting, a

Scottish Media added 8.5p to 657_5p on Salomon Brothers support and PizzaExpress, the eating out chain, put on 3.5p to 724p on Redmayne

strength.

Bentley comments. Bass lost most of an early Berry, lifted its stake to 19.16 gain after a flat trading statement, ending just 0.5p higher

Wassall, making belligerent takeover noises, gained 3.5p to 327p but Tracker Network. the car security concern, reversed 100p to 575p as would-be bidder Trafficmaster retreated. Dwyer Estates, a property group, rose 2.5p to Pearl Assurance took a 5.97 69p after chief executive Jeoy per cent stake last week.

TAKING STOCK

Boustead, suspended when it became a cash shell, is on its way back to market.

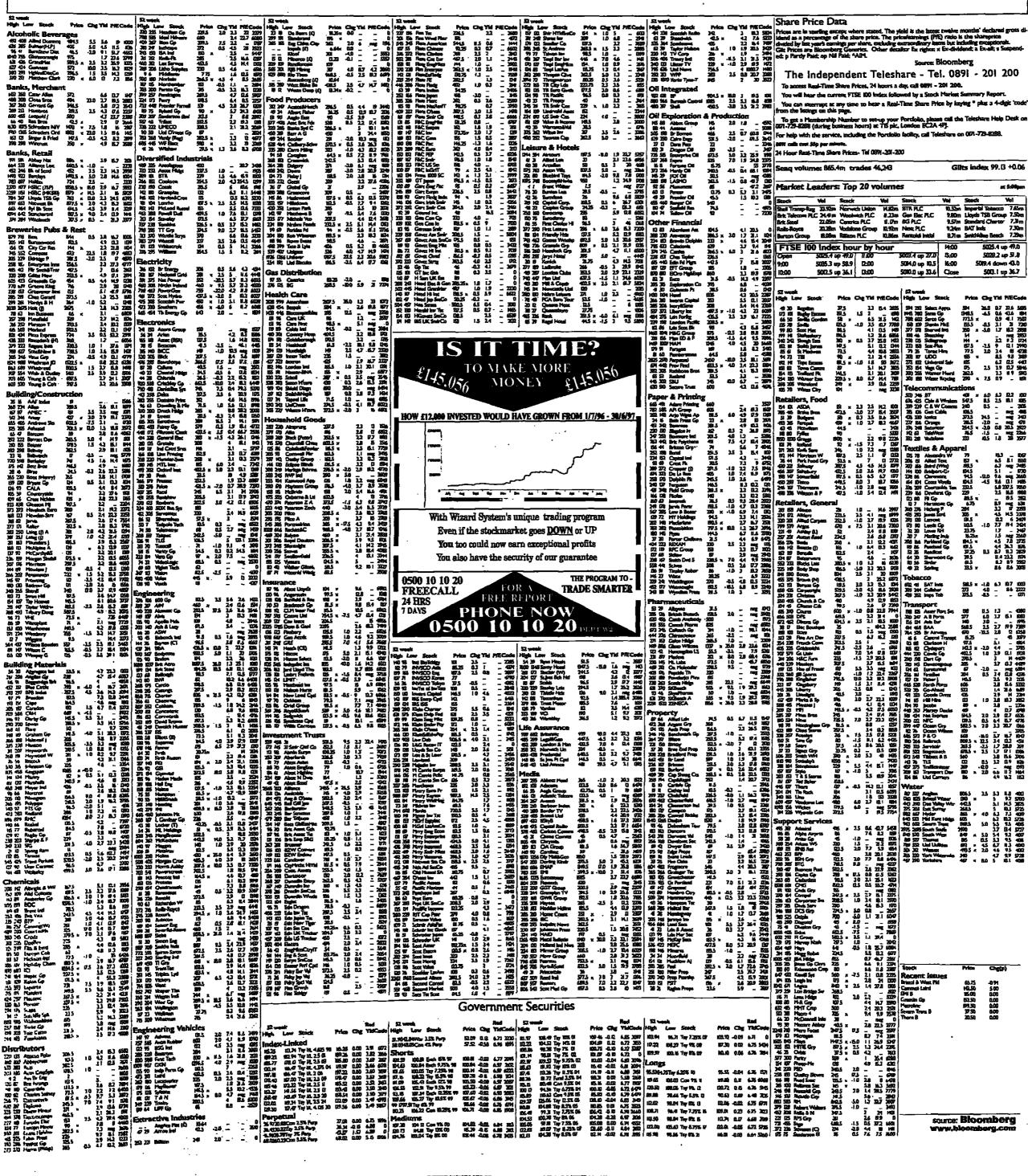
Diamond Ace, a Hong Kong company, has acquired a 61.9 per cent stake and will make a mandatory bid at 20.65p a share. Boustead, in turn, is paying £13.5m for Sunlink, a Diamond associate, involved in civil engineering. Its current year profits should approach £2m.

LotteryKing, one of the AIM companies to fall well short of profit expectations, is striving to redeem itself. Profits were £4,000 against hopes of £850,000.

A pubs lottery, withdrawn after the Gaming Board questioned its legality, did the

Its clubs lottery operation is going well and, with two directors not drawing pay, a sharp recovery is expected. The shares are 1.75p.

source: Bloomberg



28/BUSINESS

Why China and India could remain poor relations



DIANE COYLE ON **ECONOMICS**

As the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank gets under way in Hong Kong, the flow of reports and books about globalisation has swollen to a torrent. One of the most interesting streams of thought concerns how individual countries can make sure they gain rather than lose from increasingly international investment and production. To put it in sharper focus, is it possible to pick out a new set of "tiger" economies which will put on a spurt of growth to catch up with countries already

well down the road to developed status? Many economists believe the key to development is that levels of income in poor countries tend to converge on rich ones. If places like Singapore, Taiwan and Korea have done this during the past couple of decades, whose turn is it next?

The assumption that developing countries will steadily catch up, is derived from from the conventional theory of economic growth. Growth depends on the pace of technical change in the long run, and for a given state of technology diminishing returns to additional production mean that less developed countries will grow faster than the developed ones, converging

towards the most advanced. The question – who's next? – makes no sense, however, if convergence turns out to be the exception rather than the rule. And some of the recent research into the globalisation phenomenon suggests precisely this. The new Trade and Development Report from Unctad looks at the evidence from both the years 1870-1913, which many economists have suggested as the closest parallel to the current episode of globalisation, and from the past 30 years. It concludes that divergence, rather than

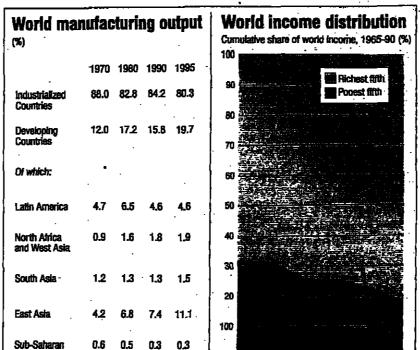
convergence, has been the dominant

The dominant feature of industrialisation at the turn of the last century was the industrial take-off in the United States. This allowed it to overtake Britain as the world's biggest economy and to pull further ahead of all the other successful industrial economies. The only catch-up occurred within northern and western Europe, where Germany and Scandinavia came from behind to match the performance of

their more advanced neighbours. During the past 30 years, too, the Unctad report concludes, "Poorer countries grew on average more slowly than richer ones, giving rise to a trend of divergence in the world economy". Although Southeast Asia accounts for a bigger share of world output, the gap between rich and poor has widened, with the rich getting ever richer. Again, there are some exceptions. Within the small group of OECD economies there has been convergence. Southern Europe, for instance, has drawn closer to the rest of western Europe by shifting

economies away from agriculture into manufacturing and subsequently services. The report also presents evidence that inequality between developing countries has increased, with the very poorest countries in the world falling further and further behind, suggesting that, contrary to conventional economic theory, there is no guarantee that there will be successive waves of "tigers". If some countries do manage to catch up, the evidence suggests there is nothing automatic about it. Most of the countries that were richest in 1965 still are the tichest, and most of the poorest 30 years ago are even poorer relative to the rest of

the world. Almost as many nations have lost ground as have caught up in any way. Luckily, new theories of economic



in replacing the conventional assumption of diminishing returns with the assumption of increasing returns to scale. This means that productivity rises rather than falls as output rises. Instead of an extra worker in a factory producing less extra value than the previous worker because both are using a given amount of capital, the typical

pattern is an extra worker producing more extra value. It is very plausible to suggest that

increasing returns have become more im-

1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 ple, in much of the weightless or "knowledge-based" production which accounts for more than half of the OECD economies' output, the benefits of exchanging ideas, brainstorming or stimulating somebody else's creativity make productivity rise in industries like the media, education or software. In addition, there are big increasing returns to scale in marketing products and

services for which global brands can be This type of framework can explain the

divergence noted by the Unctad report.

Economies which manage to get on a path 3 that allows them to exploit increasing 3 returns to scale in some sectors will get. richer. But there is nothing to guarantee that they get there. What's more, where you get to depends on where you start: future 1 growth depends on past history.

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The evidence of the post-war years } indicates that it is possible to mark countries down as winners and losers, according to research by Monojit Chatterji, professor of economics at Dundee University. Some, with favourable starting . conditions, tend to cluster at a high per capita income level. Others tend to cluster at a low level. There might be convergence

within each group, but not between them. There are few surprises in his two lists based on figures for national income per head over the years 1960-1990. But those surprises are instructive. On the margins are countries like Guatemala, Colombia and Malaysia, which with a bit of effort could

still make it into the rich club. Firmly in the poor nations' club, however, are China and India. Although many people - including investment managers are betting on a rapid and dramatic catchup on the part of these two emerging giants, by Professor Chatterji's reckoning there is nothing in their economic history to suggest they can make it. The position they start from means the leap needed to catch up to the richest economies in their most advanced sectors is simply too great to be feasible. Nor is there any inexorable force of economic development that guarantees years of rapid growth in these two giants as they converge towards Western standards of living. Here is a challenge to the assumption at the IMF meeting that China's

catch-up will be one of the certainties of

the economic landscape in the next 20 years.

PEOPLE &



Mr Clarke made his pledge at the party on Tuesday night to celebrate The Independent's new look. Propping up the bar at Mezzo, the Soho eaterie, Mr

pattern.

Kenneth Clarke, the former

Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Division club's forthcoming AIM float.

"Thanks for reminding me," he said, pint in one hand, cigar in the other. "I'll have to get on the phone to my broker."

Sir Adrian Cadbury has long

been an advocate of better standards in Britain's boardrooms. After all, it was his committee's report back at the start of this decade that set UK pic on the bout of soul-searching that successive Greenbury and Hampel reports have not cured. So it is appropriate that Clarke responded with alacrity he should be involved in the when prompted about the First launch by the Institute of Man-

Interest Rates

agement of two tools designed to help top teams assess their levels of skill and competency and so identify areas that need to be brushed up on.

growth have an answer to this now. It lies portant in modern economies. For exam-

Check-A-Board, like the Directors' Development Audit, developed with the aid of staff assessment experts Saville & Holdsworth, comes complete with a foreword by the great man in which he says: "The days when directors could pick up the job as they went along are over." Perhaps a few copies should be winging their way in the direction of former Cabinet ministers looking for employ-

After two years of stability, it's all change at the Financial Times' Lex Column. Jane Fuller, head of UK companies at the FT and Joe Johnson. younger brother of Boris Johnson, the Telegraph's political pundit, have been appointed to replace two of Lex's five-strong team. Mr Johnson is a hot shot corporate financier at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell while Ms Fuller, who switches desks in October, is a long-time server at the FT. They replace ex-Treasury man John Kingman, who goes to BP, and Simon Davies, who will edit the FT's capital markets section.

Pity Ron Paterson, doyen of accountants Ernst & Young's never-say-die technical department. While most City types were spending August sunning themselves on beaches he was hard at work on the latest edition of the bean counters' bible, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United Kingdom. Meeting today's publication date entailed "several all-nighters", he reflects. "Bigger and better" at a stunning 1,863 pages, the weighty tome makes a wonderful bookend or doorstop as

well as comprehensive guide to

the intricacies of the world of

finance. But aficionados of these things looking for signs of the continuing "differences of opinion" between Mr Paterson and fellow Scot. David Tweedie of the Accounting Standards Board, are likely to be disap-. pointed. Mr Paterson and his team

are more even-banded towards the ASB and have moved on to international themes. "We've given more prominence to the International Accounting Standards Committee because it's going to affect the UK more than before," he explains.

The revolution rolls on at GEC

with the appointment to the board of Bill Castell, chief executive of the life sciences group Amersham International. Mr Castell, who has apparently been recruited for his skills in innovation, is the third new non-exec hired since George Simpson took over at the helm last September.

No word yet, however, on which one of the non-execs will take on the trickiest role at Stanhope Gate - chairing GEC's remuneration committee. After the fist Lord Rees Mogg made of the job, whoever GEC selects will need innovative skills by the bucketful.

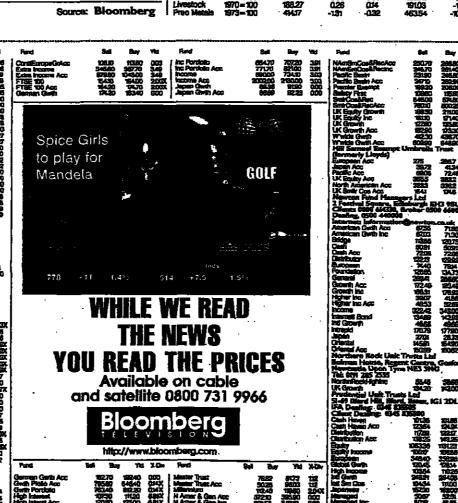
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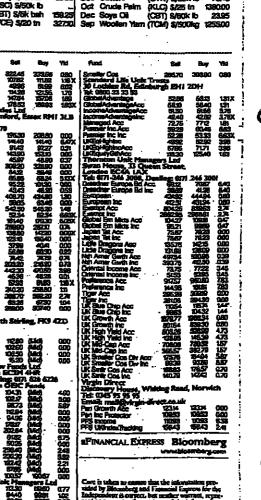
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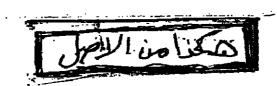
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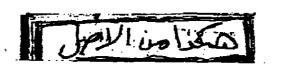
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29/RACING

Entrepreneur back in business

Hailed as the greatest horse of his generation, Entrepreneur's standing crumbled when he trailed in fourth in the Derby. Yesterday he was back on course for the first time since june, working towards the beaten, badly beaten. Ascot race that could restore his reputation.

Michael Stoute has the knack of rehabilitating jaded, injured or just plain clapped-out horses. It is probably his greatest skill and he has no wish to share it. Yesterday, after Entrepreneur had completed an impressive bamstring injury was later dimile gallop at Ascot racecourse, enquiries about the identities and abilities of his galloping companions were met with the response that he "could not remember" who they were.

writes John Cobb

leading light in Classics betting, at Ascot on Saturday week. galloped away with the 2,000 Although he managed to

reach fourth place behind Ben-Romanov at Epsom, it was an exhausted, distressed Entrepreneur that returned to the unsaddling enclosure that day. feted about the track and had looked incapable of winning after the field had raced no more than a couple of furlongs. A of the problem.

After a summer in which the races pencilled in for his comeback came and went - usually falling to a member of an old- to saddle two in the race. "King run Mowbray.

trepreneur, the horse that Pilsudski or Singspiel - Entretopped the sales as a yearling, preneur is to rejoin the fray in went through the winter as a the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes Stoute said. Entrepreneur need-

Yesterday he worked well at Guineas in the style of a world- the Berkshire track. Just how beater, started odds-on fav- well is difficult to gauge. The ourite for the Derby, but was names of the riders on his two Stoute-trained work companions are known - Kevin Bradshaw and Greville Starkey, but ed a change. He has spent lots ny The Dip, Silver Patriarch and their mounts have not been disclosed. In the hands of Michael Derby. We'll be coming back to Kinane, the colt came from Ascot on Saturday week."

Stoute's skill and patience er generation and often falling last to first in the home straight have been sorely tested by En- to one of his stable companions, to finish eight to 10 lengths surrounding the defeat of Pein-"I was pleased with that,"

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Toi Toi

(Ayr 4.00)

(Newbury 3.10)

NB: Deep Fine

of time in Newmarket since the

He had been bumped and buf- King for Central showdown

King Of Kings and Central of Kings will run and he is very Park, two of the season's leadmg juveniles in Europe, could agnosed as causing at least part clash in Sunday's Aga Khan at Sandown," O'Brien said. Studs National Stakes at the

well. We may also run Celtic Cavalier, who I thought ran OK

Among a six-strong British entry is the Champagne Stakes Aidan O'Brien, Ireland's winner, Central Park, This colt's champion trainer, said he plans trainer. Paul Cole, could also

tre Celebre in last Sunday's Prix Niel at Longchamp has taken a further turn with the colt's trainer, André Fabre, ordering the removal of a quartet of horses owned by the Niarchos family from his Chantilly yard.

Alan Cooper, representing the family, said: "The Niarchos family are complying with a request from Mr Fabre to remove the four horses they have in his stable on the grounds that it is not possible to have horses in training with someone who does not want them."

Peintre Celebre's jockey, Olivier Peslier, had blamed the tactics of Cash Asmussen, who was riding the Niarchos-owned Ithaki for the defeat of his mount in Sunday's Arc trial. Fabre has said he will no longer employ Asmussen on the Niarchos horses that he trains despite the fact that the Texan-born jockey has a retainer with the family.

2.15: SWAIN is ranked in the first four in ante-post betting for the Arc and should be able to outclass today's opposition. He is reported to have worked impressively in a Newmarket gallop on Saturday and any approximation to the form shown when he beat Pilsudski in the King George at Ascot in July would ensure success here.

2.45: Detached surveillance would seem best for punters in this fas-cinating sprint. BOLLIN JOANNE won with gusto at Doncaster last week and Kieren Fallon is again

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

in the saddle. Bookmakers are tak- 3.15: CENTRE STALLS, can take ing no chances with her morning odds, however, if she fails to reproduce her very best form, the ikes of Almaty, Dashing Blue, Deep Finesse and Rambling Bear will be on hand to take ad-vantage. Almaty is 3lb better off at the weights for the 11/2 lengths by which the favourite beat him at Doncaster, Franke Dettori rides Almaty again and whether he uses forcing tactics will be intriguing.

this. He has been given plenty of time to get over his hard race when a neck second to Allied Forces at Royal Ascot.

3.45: Simon Dow's Epsom yard appears to be hitting form and PREMIER NIGHT, fourth at York last time when Shartt Of Light was just ahead in third, can reverse the form with Lord Huntingdon's grey.

FIRST SHOW Newbury — 3.10 3-1 11-4 11-4 3-1

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Rembling Bear	14-1	14-1	14-1	12-1	Histon Medicar	41	92	9-2	5-1
Deep Fineses	16-1	18-1	16-1	16-1	Valentergen 1	12	11-2	9-2	<u>5-1</u>
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NEWBURY

HYPERION 2.10 Pantar 3.40 Centre Stalls 4.10 Premier Night (nb) 3.10 Bollin Joanne 4.40 NOBLE DANE (nap)

GOING: Good to Firm (Penetrometer reading 2.83). STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 51 to 110 on straight course.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m on straight course.

• Left-hand course.

• Course is south-east of town near A34. Reli station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members S17; Entersels S10; Silver Fing S4 (CAPs half price) Accompanied 17-year-olds or under free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free; Pionic area S4 per car plus D5 per person.

• LEADING TRAINERS: P Chappie-Hyean. — 38 witness from 170 numers gives a success ratio of 22.4%; J Goeden 36 from 140 (25.7%); R Hennon 29 from 445 (6.5%); J Dunlop 23 from 137 (12.3%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: J Reid 57 wins from 306 rides gives a success ratio of 18.6%; L Detterl 49 from 236 (20.8%); Pat Eddery 34 from 304 (11.2%); T Outra 31 from 263 (11.7%).

• FAVOURITES: 205 wins in 602 races (\$4.1%).

Design we want so teaching, real Editory 5% from 30 (1625); I chann 31 from 205 (1675).

— FAVOURITIES: 205 wins in 612 races (\$41.5).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: EasycaR (\$10); Martie Dorn (viscred) (440).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS; Midnight Escape (\$10) won at Leopardstown on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE FUNNERS: Sar Rage (410) has been sent 257 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Vorkshire; Bollin Joanne (\$10) sent 229 miles by T Easterby from Great

2.10	AMERADA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £15,000 added 2YO 7f (straight) Penalty Value £11,284
1 0	BEAUCHAMP MAGEC (S3) (E Perser) J Duniop 9 0
2	CHRYSOLITE (A D Sheart B HBs 9 0 T Quinn 3
3	DISTANT MIRAGE (R Sangster, R Kester) P Chapple-Hyant 9 0
14.	DR FONG (USA) (The Thoroughbred Corporator) H Cecil 9 8
5	FIRST MASTER (Threets Lucky Partnership) Gay Kelleway 9.0
6	FRANKIE PERRAPI (Wafe Seid) D Loder 9 0Pet Eddery 17
7	GRAND SLAM (N/s D M Wicht) R Hannon 9 0
l B	GUILDHALL (Markyn Recing) 8 Meeten 9 0M Tabbutt 11
g	INCEPTA (A L.F. Morton) B Fills 90 W.J. O'Connor 14
10	MISBAH (USA) (Hamdan Al Maktourn) B Hambury 9 (1S Drowne 8
ini 4	MUSIFIC (21) (Heraden Al Meldoum) J Gosden 9 0R Hills 13
12	PANTAR (Robert & Excrs Late Etzaheth Hitchins) Balcing 9 0 L Detterf 18
13	PELAGOS (FR) (Nerchos Family) R Charlton 9 0T Speaks 6
14	RAINMAKER (Thurton Thomustureds II) M Jarvis 9 0
5 5	RED SKY CHARLIE (29) (Mewarick Productions) Loyd Hursington 9 0
16	SHANGLLO (The Piccolo Boye) M Chermon 9 0
7	SUPERCHIEF (Sir Fredde Laker) Mae B Senders 80C Rutler 12
	- 17 declarad -
BETTING: 7-	2 Dr. Fong, 4-1 Distant Miraga, 9-2 Frankie Ferrari, 7-1 Parker, 8-1 Mubrik, 10-1 Chryso-

FORM GUIDE

Majorik, a 65,000gms Lahib half-brother to Decorated Hero, will be the better for his Lingfield debut fourth behind Sadien and looks the pick of the two with expectence. However,
this will probably go to a newcomer and Dand Loder's FRANKGE FERRARI might be the
one. A REMODOGMS purchase, Frankie Ferrari has what could be the best of the draw in
stall 17 and Pat Eddery is booked, while the stables youngsters have been in cracking
form. Distant Mintage (Peter Chapple-Hyam) and Panter (an Balding) are from stables
which do well here, particularly in the juvenile races. Distant Mintage, a 210,000gms Cestleon colt, is half-brother to the useful Roses in The Snow, and Panter, a son of dual Den-

by victor Shirtey Heights, was a 80,000 yearing, being half-brother to a winner in Lower The Tone. Dr Fong, a Kris colt from Herny Cecils yard, was a 425,000 dollar purchase and must be lept on the right side. Barry Hill Chrysofile - who sports the Tony Sheat alks of 1979 2,000 Quiness here Top On Wood - is another Kris colt and music P43,000 gns as a yearling.

2.40 DOUBLEPRINT ARC TRIAL (Listed) (CLASS A) S50,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £31,434

E	3.10	DUBAI AIRPORT WORLD TROPHY (Listed) (CLASS A) £50,000 5f 34yds Pen Vai £31,795
1		CROFT POOL (6) (D) (Cruntrywicks Classics) J Glover 6.9.4,
ż		MIDNIGHT ESCAPE (5) (D) Mervyn Ayers; C Well 4 92S Sanders 12 110
3		DEEP FINESSE (51) (D) Livin E Sinsi M Janes 381
4		ALMATY (8) (D) (P D Savil) J Gosden 4 8 13L. Deltori 9 V 119
5		BRAVE EDGE (8) (D) (Horris Valle Perinership) R Hannon 6 8 13
6		CYRANO'S LAD (28) (M M Foulper) C Dwyer 8 8 19
7	52'331	DASHING BLUE (8) (D) (Mrs Duncan Allen) Bailding 4 B 13T Casinn 6 116
В	2314	MOON STRIKE (FR) (19) (D) (BF) (A Fousiok) P Howing 7 & 12 R Cochrane 11 108
9		RAMELING BEAR (9) (C D BF) (Ms M HB) M Blanshard 4 8 13
10	660000	SYLVA PARADISE (8) (Eddy Grimstead Honds) C Brittein 4 8 13
Ħ	. 056205	EASYCALL (6) (D) (Easycal Partnership) 8 Meather 3 B 124 Tabbutt 2 B 107
12	162	TIPSY CREEK (1883) (O) (BF) (Harrotan Al Maktourn) B Harrbury 3.8 12
13	 340635 	HEVER GOLF ROSE (4) (D) (Hever Racing) T J Naughton 68 11 Paul Eddary 13 117
14	-13221	BOLLEI JOANNE (8) (D) (Lady Westbrook) T Easterby 4.8 B
15	16-005	EVENINGPERFORMANCE (26) (CD) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 6 8 8 C Rutter 5 119
15	085220	PATSY GRAMES (6) (C) (D) (J K Grimes) J S Moore 7 B B

BOLLIN JOANNE is at the top of her form and, with a tevourable high class and Kitren Fallon again in the earding she can supplement lest week's Doncaster (Listed) victory. Bollin Joanne, who stays a mile, was returning to todey's minumum trip for the first time there aince her Haydock second to Blue Iris on her single start as a two-year-old. The daugh-

ter of Damistax, also successful at York in May and placed in her three runs in between those victories, got home by a langth and a quarter thin Almaty on Town Moor with Easy-call (in first-time binkers today) a four-langth fifth, Brave Edge soon and Croft Pool eighth of ten. Strictly on the book, Almaty, with his 3th adventage, should make it pretty close but Bolin Joannie is by far the most consistent of the pair and should confirm superiorly. Deshing Blas, beeten a neck and halt a length by Denetime (who was getting 6th) in the 30-namer Stewards' Cup, won the Portland Handstop at Doncastar eight days ago – Petaly Grimes and Sylvia Paradise 1fth and 9th of 22 – and might prove Bolin Joanne's toughest rivel. Cystend's Lad was a 50-1 chence in the Numbropp at North but ran a crastice, firighing fourth to dead-heaters Coastal Bluff and Ys Makist, beaten a length – Evening-performance and Hever Golf Rose close up behind fifth and shift and Croft Pool, Essycal and Almaty in the ruck, Gostorth Park Cup victor Moon Strike, atthough disapporning last time when tourth to Rucits Pet at Sandown, and recent Leopardstown scorer Mildnight Eacspe can also figure. Selection: BOLLIN JOANNE

3	.40	DUBAI DUTY FREE CUP (Listed) (CLASS A) E50,000 7f (straight) Penaity Value £32,955
1	0-0132	
2	020101	HEUNEST (USA) (40) (CD) (P Green) R Alichurst 5 9 D
3	123-03	RUSSIAN REVIVAL (110) (C) (Mekibum Al Mekibum) J Gosden 490 L Detion 6 111
4	300054	WORLD PREMIER (30) (Mrs C British) C British 4 9 0
5		VALAJETANEE (116) (CC) (Maktourn Al Maktourn) M Shoule 3 8 0 K Fallon 5 114
6		HATTAB (26) (C) (Hersten Al Meksoum) P Wateryn 8 8 11
7		HEDDEN MEÁDÓW (28) (D) (G Strawbridge) I Beiding 3 8 TI
8		MUCHEA (13) (Albitra Insestments) M Chemion 3 8 11
9		OMAHA CITY (13) (D) (Bren Gutby Ltd) B Gutby 3 8 11
10		SOVIET STATE (39) (R E Sangales) P Chapple-Hyam 3 8 ti
11	1-111	BINT ALBAADIYA (69) (Shelith Ahmed Al Maktourn) M Stouts 3 8 6 Relid 1 110

11 declared —
BETTING: 3-1 Biot Abbacilya, 4-1 Centre Stalle, 5-1 Hidde Meadow, 6-1 Valaistance, 7-1 Russian Ravival, 14-1 Nerwark, 15-1 Hettala, 20-1 World Pressier, 25-1 Dentre City, 33-1 others
FORM GUIDE
BINT ALBADIYA, undefeated after four reces — three this year — has been working well and can carry on the good work. Those wins were all at six furlongs, the most recent when finishing test to prove a neck too good for Bollin Joanne at York (Listed) in Jume, the pair four length clear. Michael Stoutek charge with have no trouble with the extra funding – she's by Whodman out of a Golden Flesce mare — and can show the way home at the main expense of Centre Stalls. Fulse Johnson Houghton's runner, who needs a first-run race to produce his best, was successful at Sandown and Kampton last season and followed his decisive York win in May with a third behind Boars Sham and subsequent Hardwicke Stales hero Predappio in the Brigadier Gerard at Sandown and second to Allied Forces in the Queen Anne at Royal Asout Hidden Meadow looked smart when winning the Fires Handicap by five lengths on his respectance and when botting up by the same margin at Epsom on Derby day. Unplaced in the 2,000 Guinees in between those wins, lan Belding's charge was again out of the frame in the Queen Anne at Royal Asc of but he is reported to have hit his head hard on the way to the course. Although a disappointment when fourth to Decorated Hero over today's course and disrative Ass of united street to the street and the street and united way as a course, though a disappointment when fourth to Decorated Hero over today's course and distance, Hoden Meadow came good again when beating Poteen half a length at York last time and he will not be tar away it producing his best, 'talaietance got home by a head from Revoque in the Greenham Stakes over course and distance in April, following with fourths in both the French and Irish 2,000.

Selection: ENT ALBAADYA

		•
4	.10	TRIPLEPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS B) £20,000 BBC2 added 2m Penalty Value £14,070
1	-42003	GREY SHOT (19) (D) (J C Smith) I Beiding 5 10 0L Detail 10 102
2	0-0105	JayUSH (66) (Hamilan Al Maktoun) E Dunlop 4 9 ft
3		CUFF LINK (15) [Lord Weinstock) W R Hern 794Paul Eddery 7 114
4	03313	SHAFT OF LIGHT (a) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 5.9.2
5		GO BRITANNIA (24) (S Frisby) D Loder 4 B 13
6		STATE FAIR (6) (C) (Rey Richards) B Hills 3 8 11 Par Eddery 9 109
-	~~~~	DATES OF TOTAL PORT BANK & CONTRACT & Security E S.O. C. Danning & 450

.40	BONUSPRINT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £20,000 added 3YO filles 1m 2f Penalty Value £14,915
2-1	SUMMER DANCE (24) (Creveley Park Stud) M Stoute 9 7 Paid 7
-44445	KALINKA (24) (Ette Racing Club) P Cole 95
2335	VABINT EL SULTAN (13) (D) (EF) (GSD imports) B MEMBRIOR 85
31122	WISHING STONE (26) (BF) (Mektouri Al Makkoum) E Duniop 9 4 K Fallon 10
	SELLETTE (13) (Mrs J Minglop) D Haydin Jones 9 4
	MIGHTLARK (19) (E.J.Loder) D.Loder 9 4 R Cocheans 12
-10005	GIFT TOKEN (26) (Mrs D Elis) D Chappel 9 4 R Firench (3) 14 V
	MARIE DORA (FR) (24) (Lord Roborough) Baiding 9 2
61	SHASKA (20) (D) (Shekh Mohammed) J Gosden 9 1L Detaori 2,
40500	HAPPY GO LUCKY (19) (Whitcombe Menor) R O'Suliven 8 12 Dane O'Nelli 8
323	KHAZINAT EL DAR (19) (BF) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) W R Ham 8 10
	MY YALENTENA (20) (D.) Deer) B Hills 8 10
	NOBLE DANE (13) (Bestige Partnersing) P Harris 8 4 C Rotter 9
	COME TOGETHER (41) (BF) (C Wholfs) D Arbeltmot 83
354	SILVER WHERL (50) (WV M W & Mrs E'S Robins) R Creation 83 T Sprake 11
	ARRIVING (3) (BF) (Wyck Hall Stud) J Hills 8 1
	SUN ALERT (USA) (16) (X S Lee) M Polytisse 7 10
•	- 17 declared -
	2-1 -44445 231652 231652 232221 -10005 105540 40500 323 0-5002 050220 50-013 354 123432

BETTING: 5-1 Wishing Stone, 8-1 Nightlark; 7-1 Stermer Danca, 8-1 Sellette, Shaske, 9-1 Arriving, 10-1 Kelinias, Khasinat El Dar, My Valentina, 12-1 Yabini El Sulturn, 14-1 Come Together, Silver Whirt, 16-1 Gift Tolses, Marie Dora, Nobie Dane, 20-1 others FORM GOLDE

Some of these are tacking a handloop for the first time and this can go to WISHING STONE, who has already won in this company - defeating the older Fancy Deagn a length and a half at Windsor in July. The daughter of Daylar followed with a next, defeat by Apache Ster at Gibrious Goodwood and a two-and-s-half-ength second to Pomona on a return to the Settinghas section 5-2 handle under the second second to Pomona on a return of the Settinghas section 5-2 handle under the second second to Pomona on a return of the Settinghas section 5-2 handle under the second second second second under under the Settinghas section 5-2 handle under the second second second second under under the second second second second under under the second is on 9st 7fb for her handicap debut, finished runner-up on her single start at two and has also had only the one run so far this season – landing the odds at Newcastell least month. That form amounts to little but there is much better to come from the filly, who is by Sadier's Wells out of the Shirtley Heights mare Hyabella (half-sister to top-class Stagecraft and relead to King George winner Opera House). Highthert, another tacking a handicap for the first time here, struck form with a vengeance when coming home by a distance at Chester – a thoroughly well-deserved success after five seconds, four this year. John Goden's Sheete, odds-on winner of a Sandown maiden three weeks ago on only her second appearance, is bound to progress and could pose a threat – together with Khatzinat El Der, who has been placed in her three runs and is from the in-form Dick Hern yard. Selection: WISTENG STONE

<u>AYR</u>

HYPERION 2.00 Sandside 2.30 Requestor 3.00 Baby Grand 3.30 Goretski 4.00 Marathon Maid 4.30 Righty Ho 5.00 Pas De Memories GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). STALLS: Straight course - stands side; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Left-hand galloping course.

Course is E of town on ATSE Ayr rai station (service from Gesgow) th, ADMISSION: Cub E16; Grandstand E8, CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnston – 21 winners from 147 runners (143%), A Belley 18-108 (167%), Mrs 46 Revoley 18-67 (165%). LEADING JOCKEYS: K Durley – 37 wirs from 178 roles (203%).
 Wesver 28-148 (183%).
 J Carroll 17-141 (121%).
 D Holland 15-

57 (26.3%). • FAVOURITES: 163 wins in 457 races (35.7%). BLINKERED FAST TOME: Great Lyth Lase (200); Eastern Purple (200); Little (400). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Just Bob (Ayr 3,30) won at

Doncaster on Friday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Halmabera (300): Dead Alm (400) & Bold Buster (430) have been sent 378 miles by I Balcing from 2.00 EAGLE TAVERNS SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) \$5,000 added 2YO 5f

EN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 2YO 7f

TIMEFORM HARRY ROSEBERY TRO PHY (CLASS A) £15,000 added 2YO 5f

- 3 tiectmed -BETTING: 11-4 Helmohere, 7-2 Saby Grand, Eastern Parple, 5-1 Eleverath Duke, 8-1 Prior Tuck, 12-1 Blue Kita, its All Relative, 16-1 others 3.30 ISLE OF ARRAN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 5f 312145 LAUY SHERIFF (6) (D) M W Esslerby 6 10 0 ...

53:454 MANOLO (FT) (22) (D) J Berry 4 8 5 ____ C Lowther (8) 7 B 263:00 AMBRON (19) (C) (D) J Berry 10 8 4 ______ K Darley 16 20:4355 JOHANNO (27) D) J Golde 46 8 3 _____ T Williams 5 360:050 MIGHTINGALE SONG (10) M Mesch 3 8 2 _R Bristand (7) 21 864263 WILLIAM'S WELL (17) (D) M W Experty 8 & 2..... 100300 THE WAD (6) D Nichols 4 6 1 ______ long Wands (5) H 000001 DityreE MISS-P (90 (0) A Janva 4 8 1 ____ P Fessey (3) 24 45500 GOLD EDGE (5) M Chemnon 3 7 11 _____ A Mackiny 34 003300 MUNICO PARK (69) (0) Mrs. J Remedic 8 7 A Mackiny 34 24 (33300 LEADING PRINCESS (47) (CO) Mas L Penni 67 to Paralles (00000 ANOTHER EPISODE (22) (CD) Mas L Parett 8 7 10 — 25 declared —
Minimum weight: 7st 10th. Your handloop weight: Pallium 7st 5th. Rich Slow
7st 5th. Rying Henold & Another Hightmen 7st 3th. Leading Princess & Another Episode 7st, Ser For Luck 8st 6th.
BETTRIC 7-1 Gorgand, B-J Just Bob, Comioneses, 10-1 Lady Sheriki, Squire
Corde, Bracongill Lud, Missolo, Missogo Perk, 14-1 others

4.00 MIKE FLYNN 50TH YEAR HANDICAP (FOR THE BOGSIDE CUP) (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3YO 1m 7f 62216 TARXEN (15) K Borke 84

5000 YOURS IN SPORT (38) JW Wests 7 10 ... Makaza weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Yours in Sport 7st 8th.
BETTING: 4-1 Vield Romans, 11-2 Liftre, 6-1 Little Acorn, 7-1 Royal Crosen,
Dead Alm, Michal Pitty, Tanden, 10-1 others

3.50 GROSVENOR CASINOS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,400 added 2m 2f 51yds

- 8 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Motel, 9-4 City Hefl, 9-2 Jameican Flight, 8-1 See Visios, 7-1 Electry Park, 20-1 Unchanged.

5.00 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 6f RYSPED Miss Parest 6 2.

33 THISTLE PRACK (19) T D Berron 6 22.

33 GRINGER MORRIS C Booth 8 9.

3 SHOWBALLS (22) Miss L Perest 6 9.

3 SHOWBALLS (22) Miss L Perest 6 9.

3 SHOWBALS (22) Miss L Perest 6 9.

3 SHOWBALS (22) Miss L Perest 6 9.

4 MANAGE FOR C SHOW C SHOTE Durcen (3) 1 A MicGione 14 F Egan &

4.30 KILKERRAN AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 1m 3f

8592 RIGHTY HO (19 (6F) P Walwyn 3 11 7 Jiffes S Sansworth (5) 1 V 20855 WESTWASTER (46) (CD) M Tomple's 5 11 6

RESULTS

SANDOWN

2.15: 1. ARIAN DA (T Sprake) 4-1 it fav; 2. Bandbox 14-1; 3. Call to Order 4-1 it fav. 14 ran. ½, 1½, & Palling, Cowbridge). Toke: ESDO; £160, £230, £170. DF: £2750. CSF: ESS65. Trio: £1100. NR: Blue Shedow, Form At Last. 2-48: 1. NEBL (R Hils) 11-2; 2. Sahara 6-1; 3. Good Catch 13-2.5 ran. 8-15 fav Red Rabbit (Sth). 2½, 3. (W R Hern, Lambourn). Tota: £080; £230, £250. DF: £7600. CSF: £32.58.

\$259.
\$28: 1. SETTEEN (L Dettori) 2-9 fav; 2.
\$affron Lame 5-1; 3. Smooth Salling 12-1.
4 ran. 3. 5. (M Lamis, Newmarket) Tota: \$120.
DF: \$130. CSF: \$163.
\$3.50: 1. MYTTONIS MISTAKE (P Roberts)
12-1; 2. Tadis Well 8-1; 3. Orange Place 25-1;
4. Caribbean Star 11-1.16 ran. 5-1 fav Dummar Golf Tone 14: 114 (A Bailey Ramorley)

2-1; 2. Bass wes 6-1; 3. Orange Pasce 4-1; 4. Caribbean Star 11-1 for an 5-1 faz Dummer Golf Time. ½ 1½, (A Bailey, Raporley). Rota: £22.0; £440, £250, £410, £270. DF: £7840. \$55: £32.12. Tricast: £2.271.73. Trio: £(09440; £138737 carried forward to Newbury 310 toley.

4.25: 1. RRISH LIGHT (I. Deftort) 11-4 fay; 2. Royate Rose 13-2; 3. Intiffs 50: 1 9 ran. 1½, ½, (M Stoute, Newmarker), Totar: £330: £180, £180, £270. DF: £1800. CSF: £1837. Tricast: £18924. Trio: £5100.

4.55: 1. PALO BLANCO (Candy Morris) 9-2; 2. Hype Energy 2-1; 3. Featherstones Lane 33-1, 20 ran. 6-4 fax Venture Capitalist (tri). 1½, 1 (G L Moore, Brighton). Totar £540; £220; £350, £440. DF: £2300. CSF: £1801. Tricast: £200; £350, £440. DF: £2300. CSF: £1801. Tricast: £2000. Trio: £38450.

5.25: 1, VERONICA FRANCO (Dans O'Nell) 14-1; 2. Geliapino 8-1; 3. Lockoust 2-1 fax; 14 ran. No. 1, (P Hedger, Chricessis). Totar: £3400; £500, £240, £140. DF: £3200. O'Nell) 14-1; 2. Geliapino 8-1; 3. Lockoust 2-1 fax; 14 ran. No. 1, (P Hedger, Chricessis). Totar: £3400; £500, £240, £140. DF: £3200. O'Nell) 14-1; 2. Geliapino 8-1; 3. Lockoust 2-1 fax; 14 ran. No. 1, (P Hedger, Chricessis). Totar: £3400; £500. £2400, £1400. DF: £3200. O'Nell) 14-1; 2. Geliapino 8-1; 3. Lockoust 2-1 fax; 14 ran. No. 1, (P Hedger, Chricessis). Totar: £3200. SSE: £3530; £2279794. carried

Jackpot: £26,535.30; £22,79794 carried forward to Newbury today.
Placepot: £75460, Cauadpot: £8560.
Place 8; £25460. Place 5: £14138. YARMOUTH

2.03: 1. SUPREME SOUND (G Berdwell) 4-1; 2. Filmt Knapper 7-2 jt fax; 3. Easy Song 7-2 jt fax 8 san. 1 ½. ½. (F Harts.) Tota: 0480; 5180, 5130, 5140, DF; 5250, CSF; 51867, Tel-TERO, ELSO, ELSO, DEP. 125.0 CSF: 126.7. THE COST. DEP. 125.0 CSF: 125.0 CSF:

4.15: 1. MADABUE CLAUDIE (S Sanders) 11-11: 2. Opening Meet 1-3 iav; 3. Marie Loup 9-1.8 ran. Hd. Hd. (J Toller). Tolar: 5780; 5140, 5100, 5220. DF: 52-50. CSS: 51417. 4.48: 1. LUNCH PARTY (time Wands) 3-1); fax; 2. Axemsin 20-1; 3. Mezzoramio 7-1. 19 ran. Hd. (n. Nichols). Tota: 5850; 5250, 5260, 5240, 5180. DF: 58770. CSF: 58180. Tricest: 533660. Timo: 523870. NR: Pal-isandre.

isander, 9.75; 1. NAUGHTY BLUE (R Cochane) 4.8 tor. 3. Highenyman 9-1; 2. Brimming 4-8 tax; 3. Highwayn 5-2.9 ran, 5.1%. (Saeed bin Surger). To 2810; 2140, 2110, 2110 DF: 2810 CSF: 21486 THO: 2800 Piacepot: £1890. Quadpot: £1300. Piace 6: £1109. Piace 5: £815.

BEVERLEY

2.26: 1. MOONUGHT FLIT (J Fortune) 11-1; 2. Minedaley 8-1; 3. Tom 9-2 tor; 4. Birt Nadia 6-1 17 ran. 2/s. 1/s. (J FitzGer-eid, Maiton). Totar: £25.90; £4.0, £240. £1.20, £10.0 £7: £185.00 €5F: £189.57. Tric-set £448.58. Tric: £280.40.

2.55: 1. CENTRAL COMMITTEE (R. Havin) 4-5 tav; 2. Long Bond 9-1; 3. Blue Zola 7-1 16 ran. 3. 2/h. (P. Chapple-Huen, Martion) Tota: E150; £170; £320; £180. DF: C180. CSF: £939. Tho: £2640. NR: Czech Molto.

ETIMU CSF: 2938 Ind; 228-01 Not: Casern Maile. 2.30: 1. EURO SCEPTIC (K Deitey) 9-2 ter; 2. Mbulwa 14-1; 3. Java Red 10-1; 4. Polar Prospect 11-2. 19 man, Sh-hd, 11/4. (T Easterby, Mailton), Tota: 25.20: 2150, 2490, 2200, 2230, DF: 277-20. CSF: 278-58. Tric-act: 2607-28. Tric: 2377-20. CSF: 278-58. Tric-act: 2607-28. Tric: 2377-20. CSF: 278-58. Tric-2-1; 2. Sarah Stoken, 8-4; 3. Odwine 6-4 faz. 18 ran. 11/4. 1/4. (M Bell, Newmarket). Tota: 238-26; 25-36, 21-20, 21-30. DF: 23-4-40. CSF: 238-84. Tric: 23-20. NR: Anstand, Chieftan.

£38.84. Trio; £32.10. NR: Anstand, Chiefteen

C38.84 Trito: C32.10 NR: Anstand. Chiefran Arstand (14-1) was welchterwin not under or ders. Rude 4 applies to all bets, deduction 50 in the pound.
4.35: 1. ALBORADA (3 Duffield) 2-5 fav.
2. Nild 7-1; 3. Sandar 9-1.9 ran. 6, 1%. (Sr Mark Prescott, Newmarks); Tota: E140; C100, E200 C440 DF: 9400 CSF: 6427, Tinc: 6800.
5.06: 1. CAMPASPE (J Fortune) 9-4 fav. 2. Scarrots 11-2; 3. Augustan 11-2. 13 ran. 1%, 3, (1 Fiz2Gersid, Malton). Tota: E280; E170, E140, E230 DF: C710, CSF: £333 Tricast: E3856. Tinc: E270, NR: Bally Wonder, Mister Aspecto. Mister Aspecto. 5.35: 1, GHARIB (S Whitworth) 7-2; 2.

5.35: 1, GHARIB (S Wintworth) 7-2; 2. At Large 7-2; 3. Dark Mille 7-4 fav. 18 ran. 11/4, Ind. (A Stewart, Newmarket). Totac 6450; 5170, 5200, 5120, DF: 5700, CSF: 5148. Tro: 5180, NR: Berti Rahvand. 6.05: 1, SCENT OF SUCCESS (K Darley) 7-4 jt fav.; 2, Kingdom Gueen 33-1 9 ran. 11/4, 8, (M Stouta, Newmarket). Tota: 5270; 5130, 5110, 5870. DF: 5230, CSF: 5491. Trio: 57340.

 Dick Hern, who retires from training at the end of the season, had his final winner at Sandown yesterday, a course which has played bost to many of his greatest career moments. Hern saddled Nashwan to win the Eclipse Stakes in 1989 and won Group races at Sandown from five furlongs to two miles. Brigadier Gerard, Ela-Mana-Mou and Elmaamul also won the Eclipse for Hem; Dayjur sprinted to a win in the Temple Stakes and Long-boat and Smuggler were both successfull in the Henry II Stakes. Nebl was his winner yesterday.

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YARMOUTH

2.20 Miss Riviera Rose 2.50 Plan-B 3.20 Colleville 3.50 Motet 4.20 Bermuda Boy 4.50 Maladerie 5.20 Suite Factors

GOING: Firm
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Left-hand course, level and tak.

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LEADING TRAINERS: C British - 24 witners from 77; numers
[145]. J Goaden 13-103 (175%). M Bell 15-87 (172%). L Cumani
1-23 (175%).

LEADING JOCKEYS; M HRIS — 30 wire from 175 rides (170%). W Ryen 23-140 (184%), G Duffield 15-97 (155%), J Chuinn 11-135

81% FAVOURITES: 236 wins in 602 races (373%).

© RAVOURITES: 236 wins in 602 races (373%).

BURKERED FIRST TIME: Buffedera (220); Lochiass (220); MagIc Fitz (450); Sick As A Parrot (visored 320); City Half (visored 320).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tachycardia (450) has been sent 265
Inles by R J O'Sulken from Whatcomba, Dozset; Priory Gardens (520)
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- 8 declared 9ETTING: 4-7 Down House, 3-1 Plan-B, T2-1 Shohre We Jash, 16-1 Desert
Sps. Goldfig. 20-1 Alkhude, 33-7 oshass

3.20 LOTTIE AND ALBERT BOTTON NURS-ERY (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 1m

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- 20 cecures ~ BETTING: 5-1 Storyteller, 6-1 Pherach's Joy, 7-1 Baylo, Captain Card, Malederio, Stzzling, 10-1 Rockcrecker, 12-1 others GROSVENOR CASINO GREAT 5.20 GROSVENOR CASINO HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,500 added 6f YARMOUTH STAKES (CLASS C) 27,000 - a gerand -BETTING: 9-4 Designer, 11-4 Raise A King, 3-1 Wretin Pilot, 4-1 Shaw-dos, 9-2 Bermuda Boy. GROSVENOR CASINO HANDICAP

030304 BARBURY BALLAD (30) M Hanton-Ete 3 B 6 ... G Dustleid

Technicians test rules to the limit as élite prepare for hard-fought Whitbread Race



GRANT DALTON

The skipper of Merit Cup in the Whitbread Round-the-World Race, which starts on Sunday, expects the hardest contest of his career. He will be writing regularly for The Independent about his experiences as the race

unfolds.

of what everyone agrees is going to be the toughest and closest Whitbread Race ever, we have all been called to a fireside chat to say that, if there are problems, they should be dealt with internally, not hung out for inspection in the press.

Which is right, and so far the organisation of this race has operated really well. But the other side of that coin is that the management has to be really strong, to deal with issues quickly and decisively, because if they do not sort things out they will inevitably blow up in public and the race management itself could find itself the target.

This Whitbread is more than ever like an America's Cup. given the intensity of the research and testing, and the calibre of people in-

With just a few days to go to the start volved. The eyes of the world will be on us for the next nine months. They will see a hard race, a very

close race, and anyone who thinks he will blitz the others is kidding himself. But, as in any sport where hi-tech equipment is involved in producing better performance, there are issues behind the scenes.

Two things have been concerning us, both technical, but both could have a bearing on the race. The main area which has everyone looking over their shoulders is the sails. Just like all the bits of a racing car, these have to comply with complex measurement rules as they provide both the power and the gearbox for our racing machines.

All sorts of clever thinking has been at work to push the rules to the limit, work which has been carried out in the utmost secrecy. So people will present designs of sails to the scrutineers as late as possibie. If there is any doubt, the measurers will have to be very tough.

Even the long sausage bags in which the sails are folded need careful attention. The rules say they must be porous, so they let out any water in the bag. The reason is that, if they are not porous, the water will stay within the bag and, when those bags are stored on deck, the extra weight of the water will give added balance to the boat. I have seen a few bags that are not porous, just one more area where the compentors will want to see a strong response. The organisers cannot afford to try to be Mr Nice Guy.

Almost a contradiction is that you also want to keep the weight

days of testing because we had to make sure that the boat weighed in to call. We came back from winning right on the 13,500kg minimum. But we found that the load cell being used on the crane to weigh the boats was giving different readings on dif-

ferent days, plus or minus 80kg. That may not seem much, but the computer also tells us that to push an extra 80kg round the course could cost over two hours. The race may be won and lost by less than that and, to put it further in perspective, we spent many thou-sands of dollars testing keel shapes, deciding that one may save us an hour round the course compared to another, and comparing minute differences in the hull size which at best would give us two hours.

I know the bookmakers are

down. We have lost several valuable making us second or third favourites, but the result is difficult our class in the Fastnet Race knowing that, even if we had an edge, we had a lot of work to do to improve the performance of the boat.

We think we have improved, but we also know that others have improved proportionately with us. with Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut, Paul Cayard's EF and Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match really motoring. I still think any one of at least five could win this race, and that is without the unknown quantity of Ross Field's America's Challenge.

The Alan Andrews design is one of only two not put together by the US-based Kiwi, Bruce Farr, and it is very different. It's either going to be a hell of a long race around the world for them, or a hell of a long race for the rest of us.

Another factor will be the ability to keep developing the boats over the nine legs. In the old days, we would not have dared to risk the sort of last-minute changes we are prepared to try this time. It shows how professional the Merit Cup crew is that we have been able to do it.

They are ready, I have confidence in them and the boat, the waiting is nearly over, but I have no illusions. The first leg to Cape Town is likely to be the hardest, not just because it's the longest but because by the time we cross the equator we will know who has done his homework best. Even then I think it will be so tight that protecting any lead will be the most nerve-wracking I have encountered.



st of Arden Golf Course were coaxed back into the adjoining Packington Park in readiness for the *One2One* British Masters

Photograph: Keith Dobney

Olazabal clears the air as Ryder Cup countdown begins

Jose Maria Olazabai, who plays in the British Masters starting today, has made up with the man he replaces in next week's Ryder Cup. Andy Farrell reports

It's good to talk may not be the catchphrase of the telephone company sponsoring the One Your British Masters, but Jose Maria Olazabal agrees,

at the Potest of Arden to warm up for next week's match at Valderrama, has cleared the air with Miguel Angel Martin. whose automatic qualifying place was handed to his countryman when he failed to report for a fitness test on his injured

'We have talked a few times phone," Olazabal said. "I feel sorry for him because I know how tough it is not to be

Olazabal, one of eight Euro- able to play. I don't want to the boys won the Cup for "four solid rounds" prior to proved greatly over the last two pean Ryder Cup players here comment on the decision, but Europe." the situation between us is clear. There are no hard feel-

> The Spaniard withdrew from the 1995 Ryder Cup with a foot injury which kept him out of the game for 18 months. "I missed it badly," he recalled. "It was tough to see it on TV when you wanted to be there. But I knew I had made the right decision. I could not cope with 36 holes a day and I was glad when

Another who declined to play in the Ryder Cup, Sandy Lyle in 1989, is making a rare European appearance. "I never regretted making the decision to pull out," the Scot said. "I was playing so badly at the time and playing for a team makes it harder.

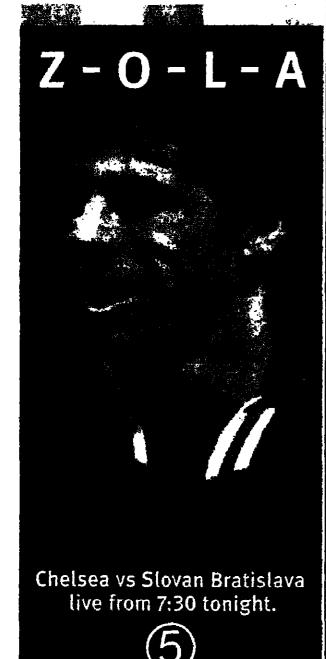
Olazabal has been practising for 27 holes a day and is confident he can play twice a day, if required. He is looking for

pomerie, the leader of the European money list, said: "The Ryder Cup is next week's problem. My first priority is to try and win here."

This tournament has been moved from Collingtree Park, near Northampton, after the dire state of the greens there a year ago. But though advance reports of the greens at the Forest of Arden were not at all encouraging, they have im-

Six Ryder Cup players, including Ian Woosnam, Colin Montgomerie and the Americans Brad Faxon and Phil Mickelson, line up in next mouth's Toyota World Match Play at Wentworth, where Ernie Els will defend the title for the third time. But the event is lacking three of the four major winners. Tiger Woods, Justin Leonard and Davis Love, plus Greg Norman and Nick Faldo.

Woodward warning for De Glanville



Clive Woodward, England's first full-time rugby union coach, wants to build his Test side from scratch and that could signal the end of the road for Phil de Glanville as captain. Chris Hewett reports on the new regime's first day in

It seemed an innocent enough statement, but it was pregnant with implication. Clive Woodward launched his reign as the England team's big white chief at Bisham Abbey yesterday by insisting that he would start the job with a "blank sheet of paper", adding that he was in no particular hurry to appoint a captain for the autumn internationals against New Zealand, South Africa and Australia.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Legal proceedings have been

instigated against the Rugby

League and its chief executive,

Maurice Lindsay, concerning

the accounts for the World

Ctip tournament two years ago.

tralian Rugby League set the

wheels in motion yesterday by

issuing a demand requiring the

League to produce the ac-

counts for the centenary tour-

nament, held in England and

Richard Cramer of the

Wales during October 1995.

Solicitors acting for the Aus-

That much was in keeping with the times; after all, the Rugby Football Union had been in no particular hurry to appoint Woodward. But the new coach's remark carried with it a subtext of considerable import. By declining to confirm Phil de Glanville in his current post of captain and naming no fewer than five candidates, each armed with strong leadership credentials, Woodward tacitly admitted that the honour was up for grabs.

"The captain will have to earn his place in the team, be in there on merit," he said. "We happen to be very strong in this area - we have Phil, who did an outstanding job last season, but also Lawrence Dallaglio. Martin Johnson, Jason Leonard and Tim Rodber. There's no mad panic. The first task is to pare down the squad of 77 into something more manageable."

Lindsay dismisses demand for World Cup accounts

Leeds-based McCormick's so-

licitors firm said: "The ARL has

reluctantly taken this course be-

cause they have been unable to

obtain any accounts in respect

of the Centenary World Cup,

despite assurances from Mr

Maurice Lindsay and the Rug-

by Football League that such

The World Cup was the last

time that the ARL played

against Great Britain, which is

aligned with the Super League

organisation with which the

would be forthcoming."

Woodward cut an unruffled figure as he cheerfully discussed the demands of the forthcoming four-hander with the southern hemisphere superpowers and dealt cleverly with the verbal darts thrown yesterday by Geoff Cooke, one of his predecessors in the Twickenham hot seat. Cooke had described the 41-year-old former Lions centre as "volatile" and questioned his coaching background. "I'm looking forward to meeting him," said Woodward. "He'll have ample opportunity to tell me front-on where I'm

going wrong." John Mitchell, the former Waikato and Ali Black captain who proved so effective in coaching Sale last season, was confirmed as Woodward's assistant. He will work primarily with the forwards and his hard edge should prove invaluable.

Tve been on the phose to New Zealand, just to make

ARL remains at odds in the

is that any profit from the tour-

nament should have been di-

vided between the 10

participating nations. Gates

rose to a peak of over 66,000 for

the final between Great Britain

and Australia at Wembley and

there was also income from

nonsense I've ever heard,"

Lindsay said. "There was a

"It's the biggest load of

SDODSOrship and television

The AREs understanding

southern hemisphere.

sure I'm not being excommunicated," said the quietly authoritative Kiwi, who will continue to work through his five-year club contract. "The people back home have been ry positive, actually.

"Obviously, it will be a very difficult situation when I'm involved in an England-New Zealand Test but at the end of the day I'm a professional. Funnily enough, the All Black management want to use the facilities at Sale while they're on tour here. We'll have to get someone down to the ground with a video."

As expected, Richard Hill of Gloucester will continue as England A coach with Andrew Harriman, a World Cup Sevenswinning captain in 1993, as manager. A second coach, almost certainly Rob Smith of Wasps, will be confirmed as soon as contractual negotiations are complete.

have been over-paid by £70,000.

that, but we will now be de-

manding it back."

"We were going to overlook

Roy Waudby, the League's

vice-chairman, is returning to his

former role as the chairman of

Hull, while Brett Goldspink,

Oldham's Australian prop, is

also on the move to St Helens.

for daffodil county Glamorgan are set to win cricket's county crown for.

Bloom time

the first time in nearly 30 years. Alan Wilkins, who played for the club from 1975 to 1980, reveals how also-rans have been transformed into champions-elect.

Take away a Sunday League title success and it's 20 years since Glamorgan last bad a major trophy to shout about.

The Gillette Cup final of 1977 against Middlesex is the match that many remember for the astonishing six hit by Mike Llewellyn off John Emburey over the Lord's pavilion. The memories for me, however, take in the changing times of those past two decades, from the evening before that one-day final when a committee man nag appropriated my notel room, to the class of 97 who strut the motorways in a fleet of Mercedes Benz sponsored cars and are now poised to bring the Championship back to Wales

for the first time in 28 years. It has taken Glamorgan all that time to lose their Cinderella tag and become one of the most professional outfits on and off the field. Apart from the two one-day triumphs, loyal Welsh cricket supporters have endured a sea of mediocrity when the Glamorgan ship, sea-. son after season, has drifted between currents of failure and

frustration. Attempts by the club's administration to steer towards respectability have produced some spectacular blunders, but the lessons have been learned. It will be by design, not chance, if Giamorgan win this season's County Championship to add to their triumphs of 1948 and 1969.

Glamorgan cricket has long lived in the shadow of Welsh rugby but guided, forever it seems, by the late Wilfred Wooller. For half a century Wilf Wooller was one of the greatest and most colourful figures in Welsh sport. He captained Glamorgan for 14 years, taking the club to its first Championship title. No one was more proud of the Glamorgan daffodil on his chest than the "Skipper" who went on to become the club's secretary and president before he died at the

age of 84 in March this year. The present captain, Matthew Maynard, used to spend hours talking cricket with Wooller. It is no surprise. therefore, that the same dashing leadership has been passed on. Maynard should have had more Test opportunities, but, for him, leading Glamorgan to / its third Championship title: carries more personal weight.

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PORTING

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Whithread team's lega

Not only would it be a personal triumph for Maynard, but the club's coaching personnel would look back with a sense of achievement in someone who was taken on to the staff at the age of 18 and proceeded to score a breathtaking century in his first Champiouship match.

Maynard's success story contrasts vividly with some other signings. Too many ageing players in the 70s and 80s managed to find a place in the

Glamorgan convalescent home. The club's nursery required .. a complete overhaul and it began with Tom Cartwright, signed from Somerset in 1977, who gradually took up the coaching rems and is now the nationa coach for Wales. Peter Walker. the director of cricket for the Cricket Board of Wales, has

been another major influence. A coaching structure which has nurtured the likes of Robert: Croft, Steve James, Adrian .. Dale, Huge Morris, Tony Cottey, Steve Watkin and Darren Thomas is backed by a sound commercial and financial operation. James has scored seven Championship hundreds this season, while Watkin has again been a model of durability and reliability.

There is, however, another important factor which has been a barometer of consistency throughout the club's existence and that is the stoical support of the Welsh public - those hardy folk who have given their time, their money, their sympathy, and their backing over so many barren years. Following the 1993 Sunday League title win the chub's membership climbed to a record 13,500. That figure is now... just over 11,000, but membership funds have increased.

Those fans have appreciated some great overseas players, in particular Vivian Richards, who inspired the '93 team, and now Waqar Younis, revered by Welsh youngsters countrywide.

Moments of triumph for Glamorgan cricket have been too few. To a man this side feels that the time has arrived. Not since Tony Lewis led Glamorgan to its second Championship title has everything been more in place for a third, and a pa-. tient public will be there to ac-

Headley and McCague out

Kent will be without their two leading fast bowlers going into the final round of the County delay in the accounts, because Championship today against of a dispute with the ticketing Surrey at Canterbury. Dean agency, but we advanced Ans-Headley and Martin McCague tralia \$1m [£645,000] and they are both out with back problems.

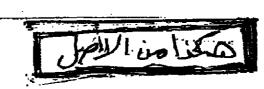
However, Kent, who trail the Championship leaders Glamorgan by a point in second place, have been encouraged in their chase for the title by Surrey's list of injured bowlers.

Chris Lewis, who has made progress after a hip injury. faces a fitness test but, if he fails, Ben Hollioake and Joey Ben-- Dave Hadfield i jamin will share the new ball.

Top of the table

By contrast to Surrey and Kent, Glamorgan are at full strength against Somerset at Taunton and relishing the opportunity of winning their first -

title since 1969. "It's a help psychologically. to know it is in our hands. I would prefer to be in this position than to have to try and catch up," Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, said.



Arrows to release Hill

The luckless union between Damon Hill and Arrows is to end. But, in opting to let his exit be made public so soon, Hill • las reduced his limited options for next year. Derick Allsop reports

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Damon Hill's split with Arrows Yamaha was announced yesterday, suggesting the world champion's future lies with Jordan. Arrows have pre-empted any statement by Hill in naming Finland's Mika Salo as the man who will partner Pedro Diniz next year. A spokeswoman for Arrows said the team had decided to invest money saved on Hill's £4.5m contract in technical development.

Prost also dashed any hopes fill may have of joining them in a statement which said: "Following talks with Damon Hill concerning a possible drive for 1998, the two parties have failed to come to a satisfactory agreement and discussions have now come to a close."

It has long been the belief within Formula One that neither Hill nor Arrows was eager to continue their association and the team's initiative indicates Hill has decided on alternative employment.

Jordan re-emerged as potential candidates for the Englishman this week, when they lost a legal dispute with Benet-'on over the services of the Ital-In driver, Giancarlo Fisichella. of luck for the future."

Although Hill, 37 yesterday, rejected an earlier approach from Jordan and the prospect of a \$4m-plus deal, it is thought the team's sponsors would be willing to bankroll the required balance.

However, Jordan have until today to decide whether to appeal against the High Court verdict and are continuing to seek advice from their lawyers.

Another round of negotiations is guaranteed at this weekend's Austrian Grand Prix. Although Jean Alesi is out of the equation, signed by Sauber, Gerhard Berger is still on the loose and could yet be a contender for the Jordan seat.

Hill's relationship with Arrows has been poor since his admonishment by the team director, Tom Walkinshaw, at the British Grand Prix. That second place in Hungary was not enough to stave off the inevitable.

Walkinshaw had no intention of being left embarrassed by Hill's defection, and elected to tie up 30-year-old Salo. Walkinshaw said: "We looked carefully at the options and, after discussing the matter with our technical partners and sponsors, realised Mika would be the most appropriate driver for us. We have had a learning year and am sure the talents of both Mika and Pedro will provide the partnership to take us forward.

"I want to thank Damon Hill for his contribution this year. It has been invaluable to have the world champion driving for us and I want to wish him the best

SAILING

Whitbread team's legal action

A legal war broke out in the Whithread Race yesterday as Sweden's White over their poor result in Steve Walsh, the Leicester City Pat Rice, will also be asked to Michael Madar on the strenth Team EF announced it was tak- the Fastnet Race last month. captain, insisted yesterday that explain their actions. ing legal action against a crew member for breach of contract. him," Cayard said. Team EF's self and Arsenal's Ian Wright anything because what hap-tercept a West Ham bid, and he said, "but it was more im-Patrick Vieira earned yellow franco Zola and Roberto Di Nick White, the navigator, left the concern is as much over over before an FA disciplinary hear-peued doesn't warrant it," and is talking terms with the portant in that it gave us an cards in their 1-0 Uefa Cup Mattee coming back. syndicate three weeks ago.

Yesterday the skipper, Paul Cayard, alleged White had been seen working with a rival syndicate, America's Challenge, led by Ross Field. It was as navigator to Field in the 1993-94 race on Yamaha that White helped win the Whitbread 60 class.

Cavard denied he had fired confidentiality and the knowledge and computer programmes White has had access to as the possibility of his joining a rival team.

White acknowledges he resigned but says he considers himself a free agent.

- Stuart Alexander



Walsh dismissive of Wright incident

"He really resigned, I did not fire ! the incident which brings himing today did not merit any pun-

> ishment. answer misconduct charges af- bound to penalise me too. Or ter appearing to square up to if they go easy on him they may each other after Leicester's want me as a consolation prize." 3-3 draw with Arsenal last month. Arsenal's Patrick Vieira ager, is willing to sign the their asking price to £6m.

Walsh said. "The only thing that worries me is that if they ham-Walsh and Wright are due to mer him [Wright], they'll feel

Colin Todd, the Bolton manand their assistant manager. French international striker

of a video tape. Todd moved "I can't believe they'll do quickly for Madar in order to inplayer and his club, Deportivo La Corufia.

Fabrizio Ravanelli could finally be on his way out of Middlesbrough after discussing a return to Italy with Milan. Boro are believed to be ready to cut

Leicester return with pride

Despite having to hang on after two second half goals from Atletico Madrid, Leicester City have a given themselves

an excellent chance of reaching the second round of the Uefa Cup. Phil Shaw reports from Madrid.

John Robertson could barely speak after 90 minutes of chain smoking and bellowing instructions, but Leicester City's assistant manager croaked an optimistic slant on their 2-1 defeat by Atletico Madrid. If Martin O'Neill's team had scored in the last minute after trailing 2-0, the Scot suggested, they would have left Spain feeling almost jubilant.

Instead, having led for nearly an hour through Ian Marshall, Leicester were rocked by two goals in three minutes. They ended up hanging on to a result which gives them realistic hope of reaching the second round of the Uefa Cup on 30 September.

mosphere at Filbert Street." O'Neill said. "Some of their players might not be prepared for the rickety old stand and the at home." closeness of our crowd, whatever Juninho may tell them."

The Brazilian scored the equaliser despite being well policed by Pontus Kamark, yet it was a less vaunted Atletico player who O'Neill felt did most to undermine his tiring team. "The turning point was when they brought on Linford Christie, or Jose Mari.

"He's just a kid but he's amazingly fast. They bought him from Seville this summer with the aim of developing him for a year rather than playing him. Perhaps they could loan him to us.

Atletico drew level just as the crowds' frustration appeared to be affecting them. The decisive penalty, converted by Christian Vieri, did not prompt O'Neill into knee-jerk managerial carping about ref-

"Two of my coaches, David Nish and Paul Franklin, had a good vantage point high in the stand. The incident Steve Gup-"It's given us a chance to py stretched out his foot and

have a go at them with a real at-their guy went over, they said it was always going to be a penalty. They reckoned it was one we'd have been screaming for

O'Neill and Robertson were, of course, with Nottingham Forest when they won successive European Cups, "No disrespect to this team, but they aren't in the same league as that side. But you know they'll give it everything. We'll go for it at our place there's no other way."

Meanwhile, 14 coach loads of Leicester supporters were due back in the city at 6.30 this morning after a trek that would have seemed unduly arduous even in 1961, when the clubs last met. After setting out at 9am on Monday, many of the fans were herded into a compound by the police before the game, when they had been expecting to have a long-overdue

Their Spanish inquisition was not without its lighter moments, however. Postcards handed out at Leicester's last home game were posted from Madrid to Molineux with a meassure for O'Neill's predecessor: "Are you watching, Mark

McManaman's England goal

Steve McManaman's dribble into Liverpool folklore did a knee operation. more than just earn his club a draw in Tuesday night's Uefa Cup first round first leg at Celtic. It also took him to the brink of an England recall.

McManaman's goal was watched by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, on television and John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant, at Celtic Park.

Gorman said it was an "electrifying" goal. "He went at people and stuck the ball into the net, that's what you want. It was superb. All night he worked his socks off. He showed a great attitude. I am an admirer of him, he plays with heart."

That was evident afterwards with McManaman seemingly more upset at Liverpool wasting their early superiority than elated at his goal. "It was one of the best goals I have scored," equaliser. We did not play well game slip away. That was dis-

Hoddle said, based on form, not game was unnecessary." his unavailability for England's

summer tournament following "He's got to keep plugging away." Gorman added. McMa-

naman himself said: "Of course I want to play for England and I was disappointed when I was not in the squad. It is of great importance to me, but I understand Glenn Hoddle's reasoning. No one has a right to be in the squad, you only get there by producing. That's what I have to do, play well for Liverpool and score goals."

Another good performance will be required in the second leg as Celtic, buoyed by their to be easy for Liverpool, but they might have too much," Gorman said Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal

manager, is angry that Ian defeat to PAOK Salonika, the in the second half and let the first match of their European a number of their best players campaign. He said Wright and after a cash crisis last term. are Adams "should know not to also former Cup-Winners' Cup McManaman was left out of argue with the referee. And winners, having beaten Barcethe England squad for the Patrick Vieira's yellow card for long in the 1969 final in Basle. match with Moldova, a decision, a trip in the last minute of the Their main danger man is the

Chelsea given Wise counsel

Dennis Wise leads Chelsea back into the European arena again tonight convinced the Cup-Winners' Cup is there for them to win.

While Chelsea's last continental campaign was only three seasons ago, the captain is the only survivor certain of his place in Ruud Gullit's team against Slovan Bratislava.

Three years ago Glenn Hoddle's side were beaten in the last four by the eventual winners, Real Zaragoza, and Wise admitted: "We didn't expect to go second-half recovery, will travel as far as we did then. We had with confidence, "It's not going an OK squad then but the one we've got now is very strong. When you look round the squad and see the quality we've got, we really feel we can win it."

Gullit is set to utilise his Wright, Tony Adams and range of options with Gian-

The Slovakian side, who lost Slovakian international mid-- Glenn Moore fielder Robert Tomaschek.

SPORTING DIGEST

*Sotiands Yvonne Murray will seek undicad advice before confirming har entry for the BUPA Great South Run on 5 October. The Commonwealth 10,000m champion dropped out of last. Sunday's BUPA Great North Run after nine miles with food poisoning.

ter nine miles with food poisoning. The world track and fields governing body said yesterday it will study the decision by the US authorities to clear Marry Slaney of drug use. A USA Track and Field hearing board exongrated Slaney on Tuesday, concluding that she had not committed any doping violation. Slaney sleepedly tested positive for high levels of testosterone at the US Otympic trials in June 1996. In June 1990.
Calls were made yesterplay for records held by former East Garmen athletes to be scratched from the record books. Werner Franke, a German molecular bologist, has evidence of widespread, state-sponsored, drug abuse by East German athletes before the Bertin Wall came down. At a seminar for LIK sports representatives. seminar for UK sports representatives in London Franke claimed he had the files from the Stasi East German secret service which detail the asset

dosages to be given to athletes. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 4 Baltimore 2 ffirst gemei: Baltimore 7 Cleveland 2 (sec-ond gemei; Nam Vork Yarlessa 2 Boston 0 (first gemei; Nam Vork Yarlessa 9 Boston 3 (second gemei). Bada 4 Korsas Cây 2 Marresota 9 Ara-

Darren Corbetts first Commonwealth cruserweight title defence on Wednes-day is off. The Belfast-born champi-on sustained an ariske injury during

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unique sented EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP FIRST ROUND FIRST LEG Chelsen v Sloven Bratislana (7.45 Nice v Kinstranck Other ties: Beldwan Botrusk (Balt)

ra (7.45)

Football

in out

training on Tuesday and medical ad-vises have called a half to his Uster Hall fight with Eliminghams undefeated Rob Norton.

Weishmen Stave Robinson's World Boding Organisation Inter-continental featherweight title flight with South African Andrew Matabola has been switched from tonight in Southend to Belfast a week on Saturday.

post carries responsibility for the overall, management, organisation and administration of the England, Eng-land 'R' and England Under-19 Teams. The Pakistani batsman inzamam-u-than has been charged with assault in Forento, following his confrontation with specialors at a Sahara Cup match against holia. Tournament and teem officials confirmed that the 27-year-old inzamam had voluntarily sur-rendered to police, who charged him with assault with a weapon and two separate counts of assault.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Final day of tores): Old Trafford: Lancashire 462 for 6 day (6 D Libyd 223, P C McKeborn X) P Titchard 52, Leicesteritire 179 (A Habib 64) and 222 (D Stevens 55). Lancashire won by an innings and 31 runs. Lancashire are Second XI Cham-

Alen Fordhern, the Northernptonshire opening betsman, is to retire from the first-class game at the end of the deason. Forcham will take up a new post in the Cricket Operations, Depart-ment of the England and Welles Citck-

The England and Wales Cricket Scard has appointed Simon Pack, 53, as its international teams director. The new

seperate courts of assault.

Lancashire have called off the chase for the Australian bowler Shape Warne and pinned their laith in Wasim Aktam being lit for next summer. The Peldstan sloper missed nearly all of this season with shoulder problems but the club have neceived a positive specialists report on his operation.

Stuart Law, the Australian basiman, expects to the up a new deal with Essex before returning home in time for next month's start of the Sheffield Shield.

Equestrianism

Equestriatins in the Year Show at Wembley Arena, in danger of being dropped two months ago, is now guaranteed to be staged next week. Tickets for the end-of-season show which will run from 24-28 September at Wembley, a week earlier than usual, are already 20 per cent up on last year.

Football

England open their qualifying campaign for the wormen's World Cup with a game against their old rivals Germany in Dessau on 25 September. It will be a revenge quest for England, who were besten 3-0 by the Germans in the quarter-finate of the 1995 World Cup. Narvey are also in England's World Cup group along with the Netherlands.

Netine cup group along with the Netherlands.

Netine trained in the termer Nottingham Forest and Manchester United midfielder, has resigned as player-cocch of the Dr Marteris Leegue side Weymouth just two months after being appointed. The 34-year-old, capped 28 times by England, blamed "personal reasons" for his decision.

Simmingham's Weish International winger Jason Bowen is set to Join Southernpton for £550,000 this week.

FIFA WORLD FOOTBALL RANKINGS (and of 1995 ranking in brackets): 1 Brazil (1723-yes, 2 Germany (2) 6335, 3 Romania (3) 6265, 4 Netherlands (6) 6306, 5 Denmark (6) 6160, 6 Spain (8) 615, 7 England (12) 6307, 13 Romania (9) 6308, 13 Budgard (9) 6305, 10 Argentine (2) 592, 13 Budgard (6) 6308, 14 Czech Reputité (5) 5736, 15 Morocco (27) 5732, 16 Russis (7) 5775, 17 Frances (3) 5748, 18 Japon (2) 5555, 58-lected: 27 Sociand (29) 541, 42 Ere 66, 4835, 72 Northern treland (64) 3843, 66 Wales (80) 3073.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The American boxer Mark seven-year winning streak to 32 fights when scoring a unanimous decision over Puerto Rico's Angel Almena to retain his intemational Boxing Federation flyweight title in Nashville, Tennassee, on

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Washington DC Urd 2 New England Revolution 2 (Washington with shoot-cut 5-4): Date Burn 1 New York-New Jersey Matric Stars A

ice hockey

Manchester Storm picked up Britain's reaccises solling based up artisate first ever point in the European League lest night despite losing, 6-5, to fai-ian hosts Botsano. Domenic Malitais's ate tap-in to make it 5-5 took the game into extra-time, which ensured the losing team the consolation point.

Motor racing

Olivier Panis, who broke both legs in a crash at the Canadian Grand Prix in June, will make his Formula One

FOOTBALL RESULTS

LITTLEWOODS: 22pts £1,001,177,00; 21 £3583.45; 20 £18685; 19 £30.25; Half time 22 £1,627,90; 4 draws £88665; 9 homes £7.10; 5 aways £572.75. VERNONS: 21 pts \$1390185, 20 \$6800, 19 \$1500. Supershots \$1800 paid on three correct. Premier Ten \$18100 paid on ten correct.

BRITTENS: Trable chance: 21 pts £83720, 20 £200, 19 £075. Four drawn: £1,80. Five aways £3400. Eight homes: £580. ESPANA ENGINE HORMORY ESPO.

ZET TERRS: 2116EN ESPONSO.

26 TERRS: 2116EN ESPONSO.

4 draws; from all 8 draws) ESS2.20; 8 horses (nothing berned) £7: 4 sways £45; (for 20p); 3 draws (from all 8 draws) £86.50; Feir Five £1259. (for £1).

comeback next week. The Frenchman

ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Lution O Crystal Palace 2.

TUBSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Ueta Cup first round diret leg: Atletico Mechid 2 Licussitar 1: Bottoaux 0 Asto Ville 0; Cello 2 Liverpool 2; PAOK Salonika 1 Arsenal 0; Strasbourg 2 Rangers 1; ASF Astrus (Den) 2 Nanias Pri 2: Bestia (Pr) 1 Bertica 0; Bettar Journal 2 Ciub Bruges 1; Croste 2 Servisio 4: Grasthopper Zurich 4; Deportivo La Coruña (Sp) 1 Augure (Pr) 2; Internazionale (t) 2 Neuchâtal Xamar (Swill 0; Jazz Pori (Pri) 0 S80 Munich 1; Kartsruhe (Ger) 2; Anorthosia Parmagusta (Cyp) 1; Lyon 4 Brundsy (Den) 1; Manibor Instantal (Sloven) 1 Ajax 1; MPICC Miczyr (Beta) 1 Durano Trislia (Geor) 1; MTK Budepoet (Hung) 3 Alania (Viadleaviaez (Rus) 0; Beal Valladoli (So) 2 Schalte 04 (Ser) 2 Hachar Spik (Cool) 0; Sion (Ser) 1; Histosia Parach-Tikva (Isr) 0; Real Valladoli (So) 2 Schalte 04 (Ser) 2 Hachar Spik (Cool) 0; Sion (Swill) 0; Saparak Moscow 1; Steau Bucharest 0 Fenerhalnos (Turk) 0; Trabzonspor (Turk) 0; Saparak Moscow 1; Steau Bucharest 0 Fenerhalnos (Turk) 0; Trabzonspor (Turk) 0; Solo 1; Solo 2 Schalte 04 (Ser) 1 Lugico 1; Witter Steau 1; Saparadoris 1 Althetie Bibeo 2; Schalte 04 (Ser) 1 Decard 1; Witteria Elbas 2; Schalte 04 (Ser) 1; Decard 1; Witteria Elbas 2; Schalte 04 (Ser) 1; Decard 1; Moscow 1; Steau Bucharest 0 Fenerhalnos (Turk) 0; Trabzonspor (Turk) 0; Trabzons

gleton Town C; Netherfield 0 Gretna 3; Witton Albion 1 Ashton 10.1 Dr Martene Leaguey Premier Division: Ashtor 0 Chanley 1: Bromagove 3 Wordester City 0; Nalescenter Town of Gloucester 1. R Cup first qualitying round replaye: Maine Road 2 Birtylara Synthone 2 fact Nales Road won 5-5 on penalites); Shotton Contrades 1 Whiteley 1: Stockshridge Park Steels 2 Liversadge 3; Bryth Spartars 1 Spannymoor 0; Dunston FB 2 Banner Bridge 3; Eshiption Collery 4 Hearogets Town 1; Destborough 1 Bridgeorth Town 3; Mood-bridge 3 Northempton Spancer 1; Heydridge Swiffs 2 Chertaley 1; Camberley Rown 2 Banstead 1; Worthing 4 Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 4 Northifeet 1; Dead 2 Bendramsed 1; Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 8 Northifeet 1; Dead 2 Bendramsed 1; Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 8 Northifeet 1; Dead 2 Bendramsed 1; Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 8 Northifeet 1; Dead 2 Bendramsed 1; Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 8 Northifeet 1; Dead 2 Bendramsed 1; Carterbury 1; Stough 5 Baidock 0; Braintree 3 Gravesand 8 Northifeet 1; Dead 6 Revenue 1; Brown 1; Brown

replaces Jamo Trull in the Prost team for the Luxembourg Grand Prix at Nür-burgring on 28 September. Rugby Union David Weetherley, the Swansea cen-tre, is unlikely to play again this year and is awaiting a knee operation af-ter being injured against Ulster on Sat-

Rugby League Widnes Vikings have signed the 20-year-old half-back Paul George from Wigen for an undisclosed fee. Snooker CATCH CHINA INTERNATIONAL SUPER CHALLENGE (Pelding) First round: J White (Eng) ist G Fong (Ch) 4-3; S Davis (Eng) ist T Tuernun (Ch) 4-0; P Guio (Ch) th X Jiang (Ch) 4-1; G Haa (Ch) bt D Halan (Ch).

SUFTIO ALTUMN GRAND TOURNAMENT (Bokyo) 17th day (of 15): Kyolutarino (Luyo) (won 6, lost 5) bt Ktaskachidoki (6-5): Higonoumi (8-3) bt Kushimaumi (5-6); Akinoshu (7-4) bt Tochinowaka (6-5): Akinoshu (7-4) bt Hamanoshima (5-6): Akinoshu (7-4) bt Hamanoshima (5-6): Kolorishidi (3-5) bt Asanosho (4-7) by defauti, Rashiyuraka (5-6) bt Mistorimi (4-7); by defauti, Rashiyuraka (5-6) bt Mistorimi (3-8); bt Kyolushizam (3-8); bt Kolorimi (4-6); bt Asanoshima (3-8); bt Hasanomi (3-8); bt Hasanomi (3-8); bt Kyolushizam (3-8); bt Kyolushizam (3-8); bt Kyolushizam (3-8); bt Kyolushizam (3-8); bt Kyolushizami (3-8); bt Kyolushizami

Tennis Borts Becker and Marc Goeliner will play the singles for Germany in a Davis Cup world group qualifying round tie against Mexico at the weekend. The three-day the starting tomorrow in Es-sen will mark Becker's return to com-petitive termis after several weeks out of the game.
PRINCESS CUP WOMEN'S TOURNA-

Drincess CUP WOMEN'S TOURNA-MEINT (Tokyo) Singles, first round: Wang Shi-ting (Tai) bt N Kijinuta (Japan) 46 6-3 6-1; S Asagoe (Japan) bt C Pubin (JS) 6-4 6-5; M Saek (Japan) bt H Inoue (Japan) 6-4 6-4; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt H Nagyova (Slovak) 2-6 6-4 6-1; MA Vento (Ven) bt Patty Schwyder (Swel) 6-4 6-0;



OFFER ENDS 31.12.97 ON CONNECTIONS BY 31.1.98.

Simingham (75): League Cup L: Vision V Note County (75):

Chellean y Bloven Statissens (779)

Nice y Klissenschik.
Other title: Belefyne Bohrusk (Belef y Lolic noch Mogrow (N. Zegest y Tymso (Mar), Apoel Niceses (Cyt) y Sturm Graz (Aut). Alf. Colm y Prencys Aptending (Scione): PC Copertugen y Astron (Seven): PC Copertugen y Vision (Seven): PC Copertugen y Vision (Seven): PC Copertugen y Vision (Seven): PC Copertugen y Location (Seven): Copertugen (Seven): PC Cope o County (70) COMMENATION First, mensi (70); Nervich V Park Rangers V Ro.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Plant day of four, Inchesting Sunday, 10.30) Early: Durbyin Virginia V Chalmater in the United States (British Gounaster into a United States (British Harpania V White allemine Carter turn Rev Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE: 974

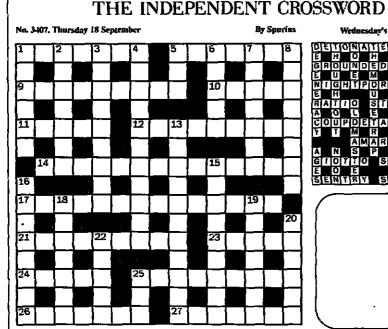
Cricket

Basketball MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Pool match-Other sports

GOLF: Brust: Massace (Postes of Action). Galerdan Idah Woman's Open (Duckin). TENSISE L'A Satellite (Hull).

32

Johnson extended his



- **ACROSS** Mini apt to prove faulty -
- Grave offence? (6.3) 10 Curry Latvian-style lacking the final touch? (5) 11 Page torn from directory
- 12 Suit that'll do for royal
- yacht? (9) 14 As patients without infectious conditions are treat- 3 ed, taken altogether?
- (3,2,9) 17 Ascetic cell is a funny way 4 of describing a church (14) 5
 21 One often needs special
- gear for driving (9) 23 China of Spanish origin?
- 24 I love to have merry log in 7 cold house (5) it's the drums (7)
 Spidery crustacean on bottom of ocean (7)

 25 Serial flattery works (4.5)
 Lust starting climb by end of afternoon? (7) 27 Bed canopies available on
 - DOWN prev to fatigue? (6)

the perfume counter? (7)

- Tone suggesting doctor's a 16 Kid from the country (7) To take a parallel example. one's initially bound by a leasing arrangement (9)
- Death to the workers! (11) Early end to corporal punishment in US jail (3) Community leader respected by his brothers?
- Old hishop endlessly entranced by dance troupe Saturated fat (8)
- taken care of by a French maid? (11) 15 Artists involved in produc-

13 Not aware old boy's being

- tion of motion pictures? Allergic symptom produced by article found
- among rusting iron etc. (8) Wine barrel, one Charles is holding on to (7) Article about irritability starting to emerge in Texas community (7)
- 20 Marshy ground negotiated by enlisted men in service 22 Stupped feeling cold? (5) 25 Acted as MP for a day? (3) we'd have seven points now."

Ol'ublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back pours available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

New ball garne: Boris Becker practises ball control against his team-mate Alex Radulescu in Essen yesterday as Germany prepare for a Davis Cup tie against Mexico

Hateley's Hull look forward to trip to the Palace

player-manager, urged his hard and it went well." Third Division strugglers to surprise 1-0 Coca-Cola Cup victory at Boothferry Park.

Duane Darby's goal midway through the first-half gave the Tigers a second-round first leg lead to take to Selhurst Park. Hull's biggest crowd of the season - just under 10,000 ~ celebrated at the final whistle as though they had already finished the job. Now Hateley wants his players to enjoy their second leg battle with Steve Coppell's Premiership outfit

'We will go there and try and pass the ball," vowed Hateley. What comes out of that we'll see but I'll tell them 'don't let it pass you by'."

The Huddersfield manager Brian Horton applauded his side after their 1-0 first leg win over West Ham at the McAlpine Stadium, and then admitted he wished his side could repeat their Coca-Cola

Cup heroics in the league. Town are rooted to the foot of the First Division table without a league win this season and Horton said: "I wish the Coca-Cola Cup was the league because

Huddersfield take a slender advantage to the second leg at Upton Park thanks to a 75thminute goal from Alex Dyer, who said: "There was no pressure on us because everyone ex- their home leg against Bury at the Stadium of Light.

Mark Hateley, the Hull City pected us to lose, but we battled

The West Ham manager, savour their return leg with Harry Redknapp, said: "We're Crystal Palace after Tuesday's at home in the second leg and the tie is still pretty evenly bal-

> Blackpool, who knocked out Manchester City in the first old club Luton and saw his strikround, take a 1-0 advantage to Coventry for the second round return leg thanks to David Linighan's 76th-minute goal at Bloomfield Road.

Barnsley staged a stunning fightback to beat last year's FA Cup semi-finalists Chesterfield 2-1. The Tykes equalised in the 87th minute via a Neil Redfeam penalty before Ashley Ward grabbed a winner deep into added time. Tony Lormor had given the Spireites a 58thminute lead, also from the spot.

Reserve team striker Chris Freestone saved Middlesbrough's blushes at the Riverside by scoring the only goal against lowly Barnet from Robbie Mustoc's 56th-minute cross.

Mick Stockwell salvaged a draw for Ipswich Town with a last-gasp equaliser against the Third Division outfit Torquay at Portman Road.

The Third Division leaders Peterborough set themselves up for another giant-killing in the return leg by drawing 0-0 at First Division Reading.

Paulo Cesar Wanchope scored on his first appearance of the season to send Derby into

Southend United with a useful 1-0 lead. Wolves' new signing Jesus Garcia Sanjuan marked his debut in English football with the only goal in the 1-0

away win at Fulham. The West Bromwich manager Ray Harford returned to er Bob Taylor earn Albion a point with a 35th-minute effort to cancel out Stuart Douglas' 24th-minute opener.

Tranmere belied their dreadful league form by winning 2-0 at Notts County courtesy of Gary Jones and David Kelly.

Gareth Farrelly scored his first goal for Everton to give them a 1-0 victory at Scunthorpe while another Premiership side, Bolton, beat Leyton Orient 3-1 courtesy of goals from Andy Todd. Per Frandsen and John McGinlay.

Wimbledon slammed five past fellow-South Londoners Millwall, with Carl Cort scoring two to add to his first goal for the club against Newcastle on Saturday.

Peter Kennedy gave the Second Division leaders Watford a lifeline by conjuring a late equaliser against Sheffield United at Vicarage Road. Chris Waddle's Burnley woes contiqued as his side were beaten 4-0 by Stoke at home.

Sunderland's Michael Bridges celebrated his first start of the season by scoring the 56th-minute winner against

Aggrieved Brive told to meet commitments

The unhappy rugby players of Brive, still licking wounds resulting from brawls with Pontypridd on and off the pitch, were yesterday ordered to play their Heineken Cup match at Bath this weekend. Chris Hewett reports

The reigning European champions may not feel like playing. but play they must. Their attempt to force a postponement of Saturday's Pool C confrontation at the Recreation Ground had received short shrift from annoyed Bath officials and, when the directors of European Rugby Cup Ltd met in emergency session in Dublin yesterday, they took a similar

Brive had cited injuries sustained by three of their international players - Philippe Carbonneau, Christophe Lamaison and David Venditti claiming each had been hurt during the now infamous barroom brawl with their Welsh visitors on Sunday night. The argument cut no ice whatsoever and, much to Bath's relief, the sell-out fixture was declared on after the briefest of discus-

The longer-term issues arising from the weekend excesses were proving rather more taxing, however. With Brive threatening to pull out of the return fixture with Pontypridd, scheduled to take place at Sardis Road on Saturday week, the board members found themselves between a rock and a hard place as they endeavoured to find a course of action that would both satisfy calls for tough sanctions and keep the tournament on an even keel.

Officials of both miscreant the sorry story to board mem- November and December. bers, while Eddie Jones, the "We will be looking for a fair

and good match. "What happened during last weekend's match was unfortunate, as was the subsequent fracas. It was a very rough game the players need to look at themselves to see what can be learned - and the bar mêlée

came about through the illfeeling on the field."

Much-needed uplifting news for the world of rugby is that Jonah Lomu, the All Black wing who ran roughshod over everything in front of him at the 1995 World Cup. has finally been given the go-ahead to play again after a long absence 4 due to illness.

John Mayhew, his team doctor, said yesterday that Lomu was now available for any level of the game and it was up to his provincial team, Counties-Manukau, to decide when they wanted him back in action.

Counties-Manukau officials confirmed that Long had been named as a reserve for a First Division match against Otago on Sunday and was likely to be used off the bench. They said he may also play for the B team the previous day.

Through his astounding feats at the last World Cup in South Africa, Lome became rugby union's biggest attraction. & He has not played this seawn because of a chronic kidney Jrorder for which he received intensive drug treatment. He was cleared to resume training in early August.

"He's in no danger of testing positive for any substance now," Dr Mayhew said. "He is about 117kg and looking fairly good at this stage. He can play rugby at any level that he wants to play, and it's up to him and his team advisers and selectors."

Longu's clearance to play followed a medical examination on Tuesday. His manager, Phil Kingsley-Jones, said Lomu was excited at the prospect of returning. "He's like a little boy? with a box of candies. It'll be airsolutely marvellous to see him return," Kingsley-Jones said.

Good news for rugby fans here - if not for the players who will have to confront him - is that it now appears he will tou: clubs were giving their sides of Britain with the All Blacks in

We may not, however, have Ponty manager, held out an the chance to watch Jason Litolive branch to Brive by assur- tle. He could miss Australia's ining them of a genuine wel- ternationals against England come in 10 days' time. "There and Scotland in November as will be no animosity," he said. well as his country's tour of Argentina next month, so he can

be fully fit for next season. The experienced centre had surgery last week to remove a piece of floating cartilage in his right knee, which hampered him throughout last season. He has been advised not to run for the next two weeks.

